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21 August 1985

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

ECOLOGICAL DETERIORATION OF SOUTH DEPLORED

Brussels NORD SUD in French Jun 85 pp 48-53

[Article by Andrée Noican: "Is South Destined to Be North's Dump?"]

[Text] As it seeks at any cost to copy the development pattern suggested by the northern hemisphere countries, the southern half of the world is destroying its own environment. And yet... the resources are there. They must be managed.

The industrialized nations of Europe, North America, and Japan are proud of their industrial development. That development, though, has come at the price of a ravaged environment. Greenpeace and other environmentalists cry havoc at acid rain, industrial wastes, every kind of pollution in the seas, the rivers, the land, and the air. They are not wrong. And yet, despite this example, the nations in the southern half of the planet strive to outdo one another in developing their own industrial sectors, or in clear-cutting their forests so they can be replanted "in a civilized way." ...Big deal! Don't they understand that they must manage their natural capital in a different way, or are they going to make the same blunders as their neighbors to the north? Haven't they yet grasped the fact that the tropical forests are going up in chimney-smoke and letting the desert in?

A Horrifying Record

When you look at our natural capital at the world level, you realize that the situation is worse than grave:

- Our planet is getting over-populated;
- The ozone layer that protects the earth against the sun's ultra-violet rays is in danger of destruction, as the stratosphere is polluted by chlorinated fluoro-carbon, a substance used primarily as an aerosol propellant. If this theory is accurate, every form of life on earth is threatened.
- the lead content of the air we breathe is mounting, and that constitutes a major health hazard, particularly to children who are exposed to it. Lead retards brain development. It comes from motor vehicle exhaust gases;
- carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere have reached

dangerous levels, due primarily to the increasing use of fossile fuels and to deforestation. You can already see the dire effects in the acid rains that, of recent years, have destroyed vast reaches of forests and polluted lakes and rivers;

- marine pollution due to toxic waste dumping (nuclear, chemical, petroleum spills, etc.) has brought about ecological catastrophes of major scope of recent years, and is still one of the direst of our ecological problems. Pollution of the seas threatens the marine life that is one of mankind's principal food sources;
- it would appear that the forests are vanishing at the rate of 12 million hectares per year because of timbering, clearing for crops, and the use of wood as fuel. We dare not under-estimate the degree to which the forests are indispensable to life on earth because they are not only one of the principal sources of food products: they also provide all the oxygen in the atmosphere, help to hold down its carbon dioxide content and, by their metabolic processes, govern the climates of the planet. In most regions of the world, it is forests which, by their regulating effect on climate, make it livable for people and crops. Plant roots hold the soil in place and play a major role in recycling fresh water. In short, earth would be uninhabitable were it not for the forests;
- the death of forests and of certain plant species deprive wild animals of their natural habitat. A great many animal species have become extinct for that reason, and many more will disappear in this insane destruction of the forests. It is estimated that, for every variety of plant that becomes extinct, 10 to 30 organisms will vanish with it. If we add to that the poaching on wild animals everywhere in the world, we get some idea of the rate at which we are destroying our natural heritage;
- we know perfectly well now that the earth's mineral resources, particularly its fossile fuels, are limited and that at current rates of removal they will be exhausted: in some cases, in less than half a century...

Is environmental protection for the rich and pollution for the poor?

There are those who believe that concerns and worry about the environment are a luxury for the rich countries that the Third World cannot afford. Sheer nonsense! Even though it is understandable that in the South, some would be tempted to believe it. And whenever the countries of the North start talking environment, the peoples of the South instantly suspect that they want them to protect nature and set up game reserves, and they imagine that when the Northern countries talk about development they mean building hotels where white tourists with fat wallets can come to take pictures of the lions...

Well, a healthy ecological development hasn't much to do with nature in its wild state, however important that may be. The important thing is that the development be effective and that it can succeed. Just one more point. If the development is ecologically unsound or unsustainable, in other words, if it damages and destroys the forests, the water, the soils, and the atmosphere, it is a bad development, a sterile development. All right: it is the poor man who is hurt most by that barren development.

The waters. If the rivers, the streams, the watering-holes and the lakes of the South are polluted with pesticides -- offered as "cooperation" from the North... -- or by runoff from them, it is going to be the poor who will be poisoned and who will suffer the belly-aches. The rich, it is true, have running water, filters, purifiers, and private wells. They often pay far less than the poor for water that is piped into their houses through municipal pipelines, leaving the poor no choice but to use increasingly contaminated sources for the water they need to wash, drink, and cook with.

The forests. If only a few trees are left, the poor are going to have to walk an increasingly long way, for hours or even for a whole day, to gather a supply of wood to keep them warm. Even in this age of oil and nuclear power, firewood is still the principal source of energy for half of mankind. We must not forget that deforestation causes not only desertification: it has other evil effects on the daily lives of people: for example, the increased time and fatigue involved in gathering firewood, which usually devolves on the woman, consumes much time that by rights should be spent on household tasks and on bringing up her children. It leads to the disappearance of food products needed in the preparation of local dishes, and that of products required by traditional medicine. It leads to the abandonment of rural craft activities, because the craftsman can no longer find the special kind of wood he needs.

As for the land, it is unquestionably the most important natural resource of all. When the soils are degraded, polluted, eroded by rain or wind, it is the poor who are driven onto increasingly marginal lands, too sterile to be cultivated, too steep or too marshy to support a proper house.

The environment is not a problem that worries the rich, avers Jon Tinker, director of "Earthscan," an international institute for environment and development in London. It is a problem that confronts the poor first and foremost. To become a believer, you need only think of a standard development project, involving a big dam to retain water for irrigation or for generating electricity. All too often, the flanks of the mountains in the water basin upstream from the reservoir will be quickly deforested once the dam is completed. In many tropical regions, soil erosion follows swiftly. The reservoir itself begins to silt up. The electric turbines start taking in sand, which reduces the reservoir's capacity. Protecting the forests around dam basins does not boil down to a simple question of protecting rare species of ferns or monkeys -- although they are important too, at least from the point of view that they are useful as signals... It is rather a matter of good economics, of sound application of technology, Jon Tinker argues. A reservoir half filled with silt will hardly produce electricity.

Nevertheless, hundreds of millions of dollars are still being spent in the countries of the South to build dams, whose economic life-span will be spectacularly curtailed by soil erosion. It's the same old story, over and over again, all over the world, whether it happens in Paraguay, in the Parana Basin, on the Ganges Delta in India, or along the Mali-Senegal-Mauritania borders for the Manatali dam. Every time it happens, it is the people upstream from the dam who are uprooted and uncereemoniously "reseeded" in quasi-desert zones where, driven by over-population, they will be obliged to suck the very life out of the land, where they are compelled to deforest entire zones, with the results you all know all too well. The fact of the matter is that these people are the "refugees" from the inevitable drought...

Imitate the North? Import Pollution?

Why accept development plans that fail to respond to the people's real needs? Why overlook the environmental protection dimension? Is it really necessary to bring in heavy industry polluters like chemical plants? Can the South not see that imitating the North is not necessarily the best thing to do? Without wishing to denigrate the soundness of these plans, is it really necessary to adopt heavy industrialization plans in countries like Algeria? On what pretext? Or to bring nuclear chemical plants into Brazil? What do the people who live there have to say? Of course, we know what they will say. The North will remind them of the big picture, the guidelines, the mistakes the South has made: slavish copying, prestige, the wish to "prove that we are developed" ... Honestly, now: is this really success? Or is the long-term destruction of your environment less important than prestige and profit -- when there is any -- in the short term?

Aside from the "development programs" proposed by the North, ought the South to go on acceding to the "international reapportionment" that sites production close to the cheapest source of energy or raw material? Even if sometimes it is the most polluting? By so doing, the multinationals cut their retail prices, but also leave their plants and installations in the South to go on polluting. You will not have forgotten Union Carbide in India...

In a word, then, the question is: must the South become the North's garbage-can? There is pollution in the air, in the water, in the soil.

The overriding need of the countries in the South to collect export revenues in strong currencies has also forced them to devote their land to intensive cultivation of single crops that will find a market abroad. This has happened with sugar-cane, with bananas, and with palm oil... That required clearing. The forest is gone. The soil yields up all its reserves, and is implacably impoverished. And the country can no longer feed its people. And as heavy equipment and farm machinery is imported, industrial production has

supplanted the small farmer, one cogent reason pushing masses of people inward upon the cities. And now again we are hearing talk of urban poverty, of shantytowns and squatters, of urban pollution ... Yet on top of the raw needs this crowding brings to the cities -- the demand for space, for water, for fuel, for food, for transport, for work -- come the speculative phenomena that benefit the very people who own the space, the water, the fuel, the food, the transport, and the jobs. The stage is set.

Shantytowns or: Tentacular Poverty

Hectare after hectare, the city nibbles away at the land around it. This can be done in an orderly way, but that seldom happens in big cities where the population is growing at 5 percent a year and where private landowners block any urban expansion. A tradition of unlawful but methodical squatter occupation has taken hold, especially in Latin America. What the "invaders" want is: access to the city, the right to settle there. As for housing, they will build it themselves. The authorities respond in varying ways to this just demand. By municipalizing the land, provided they are willing to hurt the landowners just once; by opening up new zones to urbanization and making them more or less accessible with roads and streets; by legitimizing squatter occupation; by helping newcomers to build houses. Alas, even in the best of cases half the newcomers stay on the outskirts and crowd into the shantytowns. There is not much water there, the health and school facilities are minimal or non-existent, there is no money, malnutrition plays havoc among the children. And you can see them playing in the open sewers or on trash-piles...

People are afraid of the shantytowns. They want to fence them in behind barbed wire, to destroy them. Some set fire to them before dawn, after driving out their inhabitants. But they simply spring up somewhere else. In Mexico City, in Dacca, in Manila, in Lagos, one of every two or three inhabitants lives in that insecurity. The city ignores it, but it cannot ignore the city because it lives -- make that survives -- on it.

After years and years of indifference -- didn't they go so far as to set up palisades around the shantytowns in Lima so the Pope wouldn't see them? -- came the recognition. Indira Gandhi, at the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, declared: "Are not poverty and need the most important kinds of pollution? How can we talk to those who live in the villages and the city slums about the need to protect the air, the seas, and the rivers, when their own lives are contaminated at the source? The environment cannot be improved under such conditions of poverty." With that came recognition of economic behavior as the cause of urban inequity.

The City Gasps. It Thirsts. It Struggles to Live...

Yes, the city thirsts. It is a sponge. It sucks the ground water,

the water tables, from the rivers, and from the springs the portion it allots itself, and the water it spews out is filthy. Potable water is a rare and costly commodity if it must be obtained through purification. Accordingly, Karachi, Mexico City, and Cairo lack potable water. Upstream of the city, the sewer -- if there is one -- and then the river carry dirty water to those who would drink it, water fouled with industrial wastes, detergents, and nitrogenous matter. Some rivers have become sewers, where catfish have supplanted the valuable species, and water-borne diseases are steadily growing. Elsewhere, runoff water stagnates in the lagoons or the undrained swamps, algae proliferate, malaria spreads, and the water table is dangerously polluted.

The authorities are very much to blame for the pollution of cities, charges Jean-Pierre Diehl, Director of Studies at the Economic and Social Development Studies Company (SEDES). All too often, their sole concern is to serve the paying clientele, and confine house-delivery connections to planned developments, managed and sold or rented at high prices. All too often, they have underestimated the requirements in newly urbanized zones, since politics does count for something in the underestimation of unregulated populations. All too often, they have overestimated the regeneration capacity of the water table, tapped by countless wells, tainted by human wastes that are dumped untreated into hastily-dug and poorly placed sandpits. All too often, the rainwater drainage system is designed only after urbanization is complete, and has turned out to be less efficient and more costly than it would have been had it kept pace with urbanization from the beginning.

So the problem that began as urban and moved up to regional are now national. What this means is that we have to look further and further away to find water, adds Jean-Pierre Diehl. That is something the industrialized countries discovered several decades ago. They conducted inventories of surface and underground waters, they thought in terms of basins, then distributed the amounts required on the basis of the uses to which it would be put. They allowed for thermal gradients, rainfall patterns, dam capacities. They knit their systems together. That is something the countries of the South have rediscovered: the valley of the Indus, Lake Tenochtitlan, and the Mekong basin have long nurtured highly efficacious water-management civilizations. Today, though, time is pressing, funds are scant, the water falls suddenly, hard, and grudgingly. And there are no indications of a miracle solution in the offing.

Even so, some have gone along with the experts who reckoned that by penning the rainfall behind massive and symbolic dams, they would be constituting a kind of "water granary," from which all could draw at will. Very often, they have had to sing small for a while. The reservoirs silt up; around the one on the Volta, bilharzia and the blindness that goes with it have increased tenfold; and the

Koussou dam in Ivory Coast will never fill its reservoir to the level planned.

The Decade of Water decreed at Mar-del-Plata by the United Nations, to run from 1981 to 1990, marked a turning-point: no more know-how transplanted without proper precautions, no more alien suggestions for simplification, priority to need-analysis, priority to participation by the local people. Now all we need do is put these excellent resolutions into practice...

The air over cities in the South. In downtown Lagos or Santiago, the air is often more polluted than that over Los Angeles or New York. Hence the heightened mortality rates among the elderly and newborns, brought on by pulmonary disease, conjunctivitis, and dermatitis, but also by the slow and irreversible poisoning that comes from heavy metal derivatives that are abundant in engine-exhaust gases.

Finally ... we shall not rake over the lack of responsibility on the part of certain companies from countries in the North for the way they sited their factories, even in the very heart of cities. Nor shall we deplore the laxity of local authorities, not merely overwhelmed by the creeping encirclement of the shantytowns, but also far too elated at seeing a new factory come in...

Husband your resources!
Change your attitude!
Be yourself at last!

So? "What can we do about the pollution of the soil, the water, the air, about urbanization run completely out of control and the steady pauperization of the people?" as the countries of the South.

Certainly not throw up your hands! There are too many resources in the lands of the South. Besides, with consensus and good will, you can do anything. You have to manage your natural capital. Teach your population to be responsible for their environment, hence the importance of training... And then, you have to bridle development. Better yet: manage it with an eye not only to the short- and medium-term, but also from the long-term angles. That means including some environmental givens. One goal to start with: feed your own people and expand all projects designed to feed the individual in his home milieu, not in the city. You have to do everything possible to see to it that the individual stays in his environment. To do that, halt desertification by stopping deforestation, encourage crop-rotation. Fine. All that sounds lovely! But we know that these solutions will not work if a man has to heat his house, cook his food, and get bigger and more frequent crops to feed his large family! True. But it is not so much at the people that we ought to be casting stones. The big wood-pulp and timber companies are far more to blame for deforestation than the local populations. It's a question of means, of technique...

and ways and techniques are things that can indeed be controlled, in a number of ways: through issuance or withholding of a permit for clear-cutting, for doing away with the forest, or at least through issuing or withholding of the export permit. One thing is certain: the nations of the South have a great deal more power available to them than they think. That is why they must take advantage of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and fight together to insure respect for their environment and avoid the depredations committed by companies operating on their land. That in itself would be a first step.

Next: think harder and longer about their development ideas. Why should it be imperative to "imitate" the North? Cannot the South see that it has resources of its own and that agricultural types of micro-projects are a lot more helpful than a super-sophisticated foreign plant that is not essential to regional development? Why not take pride in what you have, in your own resources? Don't overlook any of them, including your capital in the form of wild life, which provides you with considerable protein... Similarly, be constantly mindful that any and all industrial development will, directly or indirectly, cause pollution, and that pollution harms the human environment or human beings themselves.

In addition to altering the mind-sets of officials to make them include the concept of "environment" in their development plans, you have the people to educate. And the "target groups" that must get this preparation emphatically include primary school children and illiterate adults, teachers and specialists in all areas, the decision-makers and the politicians responsible for formulating and implementing development policy. All these groups constitute, in one way or another, groups at which you should aim education and training programs on environmental matters sponsored by national and international governmental and non-governmental institutions. Let's not forget the opinion leaders and those who should be training all these people. However, training for trainers is often in terribly short supply! Make them understand, as well, that they must understand that their training is the key factor in awakening and strengthening the necessary awareness of the environment in both the general public and the specialists!

The goal, let's not forget, is not only to make people aware of the need to think about the environment, but also to hold those in charge responsible for the management of that environment. And that is something only man can do. There are, however, two glimmers of light: the work the United Nations is doing in the field of respect for the environment, the adoption of a world charter for nature and promulgation of the world strategy for conservation is one: the other is the fact that the Lome Convention III includes a section on "environment and long-term development."

The Causes of Deforestation

There are three major causes of deforestation, Jon Tinker explains. The first is the forest products industry. When you stop and think about the extraordinary richness of a tropical rain forest with its hundreds of species, each of them endowed with unique properties, the idea of cutting them down to make paper or boards emerges as unbelievable folly.

It is every bit as extravagant to use the complex mixture of hundreds of organic chemical substances containing petroleum to get the energy out of them rather than leaving that to the petrochemical industry. It requires an attitude of using the books from a beautiful scientific library to feed a stove. It is to be hoped, says Tinker, that we will be smart enough to find more appropriate uses for the tropical forests -- and for petroleum -- before the planet's store of both is exhausted.

The second cause of deforestation is agriculture. Where the tropical forest has been cleared to make way for farming, the results have rarely been satisfactory. The soils on which the rain forests thrive are barren and poor, with 95 percent of nutrients provided by the vegetation itself. Once the trees are cut down, it is frequently impossible to grow anything in the soil, or even to provide grazing for livestock for more than a few years, after which the yields are so poor as to be not worth talking about. In our time, small populations needing land will clear-cut a hectare or two, work it until the soil is exhausted, and then pick up and go elsewhere. With every move, they find land less and less suited to permanent cultivation: steeper slopes, thinner topsoil, cultivation more difficult, poorer and poorer yields, even as they leave behind them lands that will never again be productive. These marginal populations are destroying their own environment. They are not doing this out of stupidity or short-sightedness, but simply because they have no alternative. They must perforce plow and sow steep slopes, even though they know full well that the first rains may wash the soil into the river, because there is not enough level land available.

The third cause of deforestation, next to the timber and pulp cutters and clear-cutting trees for agriculture, is firewood gathering. When women are content to gather firewood from the ground, the impact on a real forest is rarely serious; that is not the case, though, when most of the trees have been felled: those that are left are increasingly at risk.

The foresters in West Africa who plant exotic species in ramrod-straight rows, talk scornfully of "worthless bush." The peasants in the Sahel, better versed in the art of survival in a pitiless environment, are far more aware of the value of trees. They eat their nuts or fruits; they use their leaves to feed their cattle, their bark to dye cloth or tan leather, the berries to make medicinal potions, the shade to sleep under. But if there is no other source of fuel to cook the daily meals, the trees that did grow in the heavily populated areas are doomed to disappear.

Biogas: Worth-while Only for the Rich?

Biogas is an interesting technique to explore. All it requires is to gather cow manure, mix it with water, and pour it into a big tank, and from it you get natural gas, mainly methane gas, which can be used as fuel. A splendid example of green energy and appropriate technology! And that is just what it has turned out to be in a number of cases. In China's Xixuan Province there are 6 million methane converters.

There were high hopes for biogas in India, where it appears that millions of "sacred" cows drop their fecal matter in the streets. What actually happened when a methane generator was set up in an Indian village? This one was not owned by the commune, as they are in China, but by a private individual. The steel cover for the tank costs at least \$50, a sum only the rich countries can afford to pay. It is the peasants themselves who own most of the cows and, when they buy a methane generator, they usually assign one of their hands to collect the droppings and bring them back to the plant.

However, that asset was not going to waste, even before biogas. It was gathered by the children of the poor, shaped into briquettes, and dried in the sun for use as fuel. As things stand now, the poorest people in the village -- which, in India, means the totally destitute -- have lost their supply of free fuel. There is no firewood, electricity or oil are far beyond their means, and that means that their only recourse is to gather brushwood, glean the stubble-fields after the harvest, or gather dead leaves to cook their food.

Well, then, to what extent is biogas an appropriate "green" energy if, when you introduce this technology, you rob the poorest of the poor of their cooking fuel? Just how ecologically sound is this technology if it means that dead leaves and stubble are burned as fuel rather than left in place as organic nourishment for the soil?

An Experiment That Worked: Adrar [Boxed Section]

The water table beneath the Sahara promises tremendous reserves of water. You have to hunt for it, though. It is what feeds the oases and the crops. The most ingenious mode of irrigation in the Sahara is unquestionably the foggara, a long, underground canal that taps the water by looking for it where it is, which is in the sandstone formations, at its source, not in the open air, but in an underground tunnel, so as to keep evaporation to a minimum. The water is drawn to the surface by capillary action from the tunnel, and from there is piped down a slight incline toward the oasis, where it leads to a reservoir, the "majem," from which it is distributed through other, smaller channels, called "segua," to gardens. This mode of irrigation involves no human or animal energy, and, best of all, it never runs dry: its flow never varies. There are many foggaras in the desert: in the Timimoun

region alone, there are no fewer than 202 foggaras for 52 ksours (small settlements). Foggara irrigation, however, is not adequate to the needs of real agricultural development. The procedure they chose for that is of course drilling. As of now, 34 wells have been completed, but, according to UNESCO experts, 800 wells could be sunk without exhausting the aquifer, with a flow of 15 cubic meters per second. Furthermore, available water resources, if they are put to optimal use, will suffice to develop 10,000 hectares of farmland.

It is this abundance of water that has moved the Algerian authorities to move in the past few years in finding the requisite investments for a gradual transformation of the region, to adapt the necessary agricultural techniques, to experiment with and select the crops likeliest to thrive while making minimum demands on the underground water. Agriculture has reached another turning-point and today tomato growing is very widespread. Some of the tomatoes grown in Adrar wilaya are shipped to northern Algeria, but a big share is exported, mainly to the German Democratic Republic.

For several years, now, farmers in the region have been more aware of the need for diversifying their crops. Some fruitful studies of garlic- and fava-bean growing have led to quite substantial yields. The same goes for potatoes, onions, haricot beans, wheat, barley, maize, sorghum, and citrus fruits. Growers have not been slow to experiment, with promising results, with crop rotation, a move that gives them several crops each year. Among other things, they have begun greenhouse experiments in Modram on the outskirts of Adrar, which yield excellent products. They are looking to the future because, for the moment, and because it is a lucrative commodity, the tomato wins hands-down. Its fame has even overshadowed the date-palm, which is nevertheless the premier tree in the desert.

Algerian authorities have also stressed education, a move that has boosted the school-attendance rate to 70 percent, region-wide. And the health sector has not been overlooked, either: several hospitals have been built in Adrar and Timimoun.

In a word, there you have a successful experiment at making the desert bloom again and proving that desertification is not irreversible...

- SOURCES: (1) A. Oyowe, J. Tinker, M. Tolba, R. Gregoire, K. Junzmann, K.F. Beliere, S. Strasfogel, M. Benstaali, C. Linet, J.P. Diehl. LE COURRIER N 87, 1984.
(2) UNESCO statistics and documents, World Bank, UNPE, EEC.

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CSO: 3419/466

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE RENEWED

Paris THE INDIAN OCEAN NEWSLETTER in English 6 Jul 85 p 2

[Text] Paul BERENGER, leader of the opposition MMM party in Mauritius, spent two days in Réunion on June 19 and 20 to renew ties with that island's left-wing parties, the Parti Communiste Réunionnais, the Parti Socialiste, the Mouvement des Progressistes Réunionnais (MPR) and the Mouvement pour l'Indépendance de la Réunion (MIR). Despite an earlier failure at the end of 1983, he has not given up hope of arranging a second conference of "progressive" parties of the southwest Indian Ocean.

I.O.N.- The first such conference was held in Victoria, Seychelles, in 1978, but since then relations between the various political parties have experienced a lengthy cooling period directly linked to the changing political and economic situation in the various countries and territories concerned (Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Réunion). Apart from the MPR, which wants a special relationship with the MMM and a "twinning" of Sainte-Marie and Curepipe, which they respectively control, the Réunion party leaders were polite but reserved in their attitude to the Mauritian opposition chief. Neither the socialists nor the communists, in particular, intend to sit down in a conference with the independence-seekers of the MIR. They also want a more precise definition of the term "progressive".

It remains to be seen whether Mr BERENGER will receive a warmer welcome in Seychelles, where he is going soon, and Madagascar, where he is expected in August. In the former, his leading ally in the region, president France Albert RENE, is currently preoccupied with rising internal discontent, while in the latter the attendance of Mauritian prime minister Anerood JUGNAUTH at the 25th anniversary of independence celebrations does not bode well for the MMM leader.

In Réunion Mr BERENGER stressed to his hosts that the proposed conference was not aimed against France or anybody else. And if the question of the French-controlled "scattered islands" were raised, it would not be a major topic.

CSO: 3400/711

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

SEYCHELLES ELECTED TO CHAIR IOFC

Victoria NATION in English 10 Jul 85 pp 1, 2

[Text]

SEYCHELLES has been elected chairman of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC) for the next two years.

The news was brought back from Thailand last weekend by Mr Philip Michaud, the acting General Manager of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA). Together with Miss Ghislaine Lablache, the Authority's Director of Research, he attended the Commission's eighth session from July 2 to 6 at the Food and Agriculture Organisation's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok.

The delegates from 21 member states of the Commission found that catches from the Indian Ocean almost reached four million tons in 1983, nearly six per cent of the world's marine production. Shrimp and tuna were the main resources of economic importance. Shrimp were exploited practically everywhere to or over their maximum level, while tuna fishing was increasing dramatically.

The Seychelles delegation reported to the Commission

that fishing on the islands' reefs was reaching full exploitation. Trawling was forbidden and lobster fishing and been banned.

A computerized catch assessment survey had been implemented, new vessels were being designed to replace traditional fishing schooners, and new fishing techniques such as fish aggregating devices (FADs) and traps for deep-water prawns were being introduced.

Reef areas

The Kenyan delegate, supported by several other delegations, stressed the importance of conserving reef areas. This could be done through proper management and creating protected areas from where neighbouring fishing areas could be restocked.

Nine East African nations, including Seychelles, recently signed a convention for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment. Four of

the countries, again including Seychelles, have already ratified the convention.

On the subject of regional cooperation, it was emphasized that marine fisheries research was traditionally a cooperative effort among the neighbouring countries or countries harvesting the same stocks. But while it might involve costly vessels and equipment, successful research was also often done at little cost, such as by measuring the amount of fish landed.

In most countries the emphasis on research had shifted from trying to find new resources to assessing the result of fishing pressure on known stocks that were currently being exploited. It was considered crucial to collect enough data at the national level before any success could be achieved through exchanging this information.

Some delegations said their countries lacked trained scientists who could carry out fishery research. This was vital as

building up national research capabilities was a pre-requisite for regional cooperation.

Suggestions for more effective cooperation included holding more training courses and workshops to assess stocks, identifying research and training needs on a regional basis and countries in the region who could provide training, exchanging experiences through study tours, and meetings of directors of research programmes to discuss problems and objectives and to harmonize work plans.

Committees and projects

Thus the meeting decided to strengthen the various committees and projects of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation dealing with tuna fishing and management. A meeting of tuna scientists will take place in Sri Lanka later this year.

The Commission also considered that it was necessary to improve handling and processing and to strengthen national quality control and inspection systems.

While recognizing that uniformity in quality control matters was not easy to achieve in the Indian Ocean due to different national capabilities and levels of development, the Commission felt it would be useful to carry out a study on the feasibility of having common guidelines leading to the formulation of regional quality control standards. It also considered that more training in fish quality control and inspection was required at the national and regional levels.

At the end of the session,

Seychelles was elected chairman of the Commission for the next two years with Bangladesh, France, the Maldives, Oman, Sri Lanka and Thailand as vice-chairmen.

Established by the FAO in 1967, the IOFC promotes, assists and coordinates national programmes over the entire field of fishery development and conservation. It promotes research and development activities with international assistance and helps solve problems relating to the management of offshore resources.

CSO: 3400/736

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

INDIAN OCEAN FISHERY MEETING REPORTED

Victoria NATION in English 11 Jul 85 p 10

[Text] Seychelles has issued licences to no less than 50 foreign purse seiners this year, reflecting a worldwide shift in tuna fishing activities, an Indian Ocean commission was told recently.

THE Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA), which sent two top officials to a session of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC) in Bangkok last week, believes that these vessels catch between 35 and 45 per cent of their fish in Seychelles' exclusive economic zone.

Meanwhile, a joint venture with a French company is being set up and Seychelles' first purse seiner is expected in these waters in the not-too-distant future.

Reviewing the management of tuna fisheries in the Indian Ocean, the IOFC meeting, at which Seychelles was elected chairman of the Commission for 1985-87, found that the amount of tuna caught in the region and in the Western Pacific had increased dramatically, as large purse seine fleets moved in from the Atlantic and the Eastern Pacific.

Industrial tuna fishing

The Commission also noted that tuna prices on the international market had drastically declined. This unfortunately came at a time when a number of developing countries had taken up industrial tuna fishing, an activity previously dominated by a very small

number of long distance fishing nations.

Although artisanal tuna fishing has been practiced for a long time in the Indian Ocean, industrial fishing started only in the early fifties with long liners. These were followed in the early seventies by pole and liners and very recently by large purse seiners. The latter operate mainly in the Western Indian Ocean where their number increased from three in 1982 to 13 in 1983 and 50 in 1984.

In 1983, total catches of tuna and tuna-like species reached a record 380,000 tons. A first estimation indicated an increase of 100,000 tons in 1984.

But despite the spectacular progress of the industrial sec-

tor, artisanal fisheries still accounted for 45 per cent of the total catches. The IOFC observed that this was a unique situation which raised very special management problems.

About 100,000 tons of tuna and billfishes were taken by long liners in the Indian Ocean in 1983, mainly by Japanese, Korean and Chinese vessels. Total catches were fairly stable during the last decade.

While still concentrating their efforts in the central area, purse seiners are now operating in the whole western part of the Indian Ocean, from the Arabian Sea to the Mozambique Channel. Two years ago 20,500 tons of tuna were caught by the seiners. Half the catch was yellowfin and half skipjack.

It is estimated that the total purse seine catchers in the Indian Ocean in 1984 will reach 100,000 tons, with a small increase in the proportion of yellowfin.

Participation of coastal states

The Commission recognised that the participation of coastal

states in the tuna fishery would depend on local factors, as well as on the efforts and development policies of individual governments.

The IOFC members stressed that the cooperation of both coastal countries and distant-water fishing nations such as France, Spain and Japan was essential to collect and compile the detailed data that was needed to assess fish stocks.

The Commission felt that it was necessary that management decisions should be based on sound scientific advice. Meetings of administrators responsible for fisheries management and development should be preceded by meetings of scientists. The next meeting of the Committee on Management of Indian Ocean Tuna is to be held in Sri Lanka in December 1985.

Several delegations expressed some concern about the possible effect of large purse seining operations on the artisanal and long-line fisheries.

It was, however, pointed out that such an impact would be more likely in cases where both types of fishing were undertaken in closely adjacent areas.

Regarding yellowfin, the results of the introduction of purse seining had led scientists to revise their previous estimations, which were exclusively based on the data collected from long lining. It was now thought that the Indian Ocean stock might well reach a potential of 100,000 to 150,000 tons.

The skipjack potential of the region was not yet well known, but catches could probably be increased quite substantially.

The need for continuing international cooperation in tuna management and development was unanimously recognised. However, although delegations referred to other international bodies dealing with tuna management in various parts of the world as examples, it was pointed out that the situation was unique in the Indian Ocean. The Commission included a large number of developing coastal countries, which accounted for about 45 per cent of the total tuna catches. This very special combination of interests and capabilities required solutions specifically adapted to the region.

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

SADCC FISH PROJECT--Britain and the nine member states of the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference have agreed to co-finance a project for research into the fish resources of lake Lyasa, the head of the Tanzanian fisheries research institute, Philip BWATHONDI, has said. [Text] [Paris THE INDIAN OCEAN NEWSLETTER in English 6 Jul 85 p 7]

CSO: 3400/713

BENIN

POLITICAL, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS THREATENED

London AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL in English 3 Jul 85 p 7

[Text]

President **Mathieu Kérékou**'s political and economic liberalisation programme has been practically destroyed by the continued closure of the border with **Nigeria**. Benin's trading sector always depended on Yoruba-controlled contraband with Nigeria — a trade that has now come to a standstill. And Benin-based joint-venture schemes with Nigeria, such as the Onigolo cement works and the Savé sugar complex, have been virtually paralysed by the Nigerian decision to save cash by buying these products at a lower price elsewhere.

Not surprisingly the economic crisis, in which rapidly growing unemployment is one result, has sparked off social unrest. The most serious incidents were in April and May when university students demonstrated against new guidelines ending the guarantee of state employment for all diploma holders. To prevent the protest from expanding into wider tribally-based demonstrations against the government, Kérékou asked the security forces to clamp down hard. Several students were killed and dozens were arrested. Though the unrest was quelled it will probably break out again at the start of the new school year in September. Most students favour accelerated economic liberalisation, reckoning that it would open up job opportunities the bureaucracy and parastatals are incapable of creating. As a result of the university unrest, Kérékou sacked minister of education **Michel Alladayé**. He also replaced the president and vice-president of the university.

Kérékou's present strategy is probably to avoid rocking the boat until rising petro-dollar revenues bail out the regime in three to four years. The success or failure of this strategy depends on his ability to enlist support from the army, particularly the elite forces from his own northern region which provide the backbone of the crack *Garde Présidentielle* battalion. (North Koreans provide close-up security).

During the past year Kérékou has shifted gradually

the political balance in the regime away from pro-Marxist members of *La Ligue Internationale de la Défense des Droits du Peuples (La Ligue)*, and has reduced the influence of older officers who played a key role in the 1972 coup. A younger generation which is much more beholden to Kérékou has been promoted in their place. In the army it includes, for example, Lieutenant-Colonels **Léopold Ahoueya**, **Charles Bebeda** and **Gaston Coovi**.

On the tribal side Kérékou's main preoccupation has been to prevent an alliance between the Yoruba, who live mainly in the Porto Nuovo and Cotonou areas, and the Fon of Abomey and Ouidah, against the hegemony of northern tribes — such as his own Yoaba tribe, the Dendi, the Pila and the Bariba. **Romain Vilon Guézo**, president of the national assembly and head of the trade union movement, is relied on by Kérékou to control Fon discontent.

In the short-to-medium-term there is certainly no prospect of economic improvement. Loans contracted by the government to finance the Savé sugar project and the Onigolo cement factory have pushed up the external debt to about \$900m without generating any revenue to repay them. An agreement with the IMF, followed by a Paris and London Club rescheduling of the debt, looks the most likely scenario at present.

Part of a revised economic strategy will have to include a rejigging of the banking sector, whose main institution, *La Banque Commerciale du Benin* (BCB), is in bad shape. Its longstanding director-general, **Bruno Amoussou**, was arrested late last year on obscure charges. French businessmen no longer accept BCB financial guarantees.

The longer-term hope, on which Kérékou pins his future, is of course oil. Output from the small Semé field, close to the maritime frontier with Nigeria, is producing about 9,000 barrels a day (b/d), of which about 5,000 b/d is exported. A second development phase has been launched with the help of the Norwegian company, *Saga Petroleum*, with the aim of increasing production to 16,000 b/d next year, perhaps up to 20,000 b/d by 1987. The government has also announced recently that new concessions, onshore and offshore, will soon be offered to western oil companies, several of which have sent representatives to discuss possibilities with Beninois officials. Petroleum affairs have been handled directly by the president's office following the cabinet reshuffle last year. As in **Cameroun**, oil revenue is not fully included in the national budget or in the trade statistics.

BOTSWANA

BNF LEADER KENNETH KOMA DISCUSSES PARTY LINE

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 17 Jul 85 p 1

[Text]

MAHALAPYE: The leader of the opposition Botswana National Front (BNF), Dr Kenneth Koma has called on his followers, who attended the party's national congress, in Mahalapye to work harder, especially in the field of political education.

Dr Koma said his party had experienced considerable growth in the past few years. But he advised; "when I say that our party has grown to the extent that it is known everywhere in the country, I do not mean that we have achieved everything which needed to be done. There is still a lot to do if we are to get into power," he said.

He disclosed that the party will establish three political study centres in the south, central and north of the country.

Dr Koma expressed the hope that all constituencies would make good use of these centres.

Dr Koma informed his supporters that because the party could disseminate information through the media, which it did not control, arrangements were being made to revive the party paper 'Puo Phaa' which would have an editorial policy to highlight the social and economic

problems facing Batswana.

With regard to organisatin, Dr Koma said that there was need to restructure the party. He added they intended to decentralise the party as to give ordinary members the opportunity to actively participate in its activities.

"Our aim is that the party should not be run by the top brass alone, but that the people must be involved," he assured.

The party's youth wing, the Botswana Youth Federation and the Women's League were to be strengthened together with links to churches and trade unions.

He announced that the present nine political regions were to be increased and that every constituency would have an independent committee with its own secretariat.

Dr Koma said that the congress would review the party's constitution and manifesto to ensure that they were in line with the prevailing material conditions.

The BNF president said that urban migration was a serious problem in Botswana and in the whole of Africa because of changing life patterns, more especially the deterioration of

life in rural areas. He called on his supporters to determine how best the problem could be solved.

He said that the BNF believed that there was no problem that man cannot solve and that this could only happen where the nature of the problems had not been studied carefully.

Dr Koma criticised the ruling Botswana Democratic party (BDP) for not consulting the people on National Development Plan VI. He said that the plan should have been distributed for the people for discussion before it went to Parliament.

Dr Koma asserted that it was disappointing that after 19 years of independence, Botswana continued to be what he called a nation of beggars despite the availability of resources especially in the agricultural sector. He said cooperative farming should be introduced, and local industries be established to create jobs for Batswana.

"We are not against foreign investment, all we are saying is that Batswana should be given the opportunity because anything short of this could result in a conflict between Batswana and foreigners," he said.

CSO: 3400/751

BOTSWANA

BPP'S PRESIDENT MARIPE EXPRESSES PARTY'S VIEWS

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 17 Jul 85 pp 1, 2

[Text]

LOBATSE: Delegates at the annual conference of the Opposition Botswana People's Party (BPP) have been called upon to strengthen and refurbish the party into a powerful force which could rule Botswana.

The call was made by the BPP President, Dr Knight Maripe when he opened the BPP delegates conference at the community centre here on Saturday. Dr Maripe said that to make the party strong, everybody must work hard. Otherwise the party will have no chance of ever assuming power in the country.

He added that as the pioneer political party, the BPP had contributed a lot to the development of Botswana although it has never assumed power. He said that the time had come for it to assume power. He told the delegates that the 1989 general elections were around the corner and called on constituencies and wards to identify both parliamentary and council candidates now.

Dr Maripe said that the BPP had a bad tradition of always going to sleep after elections, thinking that the next elections were still far only to be caught napping. He quoted the founder of the People's Republic of China, who said that the longest journey starts with one step, and said the

BPP should take that step towards the 1989 general elections.

He described politics as a hard and ruthless game and warned the BPP followers that if they played it soft, they would end up in a heap of political oblivion and obscurity.

The BPP leader also expressed his party's concern at what he called a growing tendency in Botswana where other ethnic groups were downtrodden. He argued that a united nation could not be built by forcing people to speak Setswana. He cautioned that political differences should not be developed into hatred. Let these differences be like those of children of one family, he said, but warned that the BPP had principles for which they were prepared to die.

Dr Maripe supported the diplomatic steps which were taken by the BPP Government following the raid on Gaborone by South African commandos. He said the international response was pleasing, but added that when people in the north were attacked by Zimbabweans, the government should also cry aloud and not keep quiet. He said such attacks had been made in the past, but nothing was said. He called on Botswana to be prepared to die for the protection of their country's sovereignty. A

point on which he said the BPP supported the BDP government was its stand on refugees. The majority of people fleeing from South Africa are genuine refugees, but the South Africans because of their apartheid policies, believe every opponent of apartheid who runs away, is a terrorist, he said.

Dr Maripe said that the government should continue to give protection to those who run away from persecution in their own countries, and added that if that meant continued invasion by South Africans, then let it be so.

The BPP leader however, criticised the BDP Government on its Education, Agriculture and Commerce and Industry policies. He said for Botswana to be a great country there must be a government which cared for the rights of the underdogs. "We are in the BPP because we believe that BDP is a party which will make the poor poorer and the rich richer," he declared.

He added that no man could be said to be free and peaceful when he lived on an empty stomach, when he begged for a slice of bread from his neighbour daily. He said Botswana was not free because, "we live on the goodwill of Botha for meal mealie and of Mugabe for sugar."

CSO; 3400/751

BOTSWANA

AUSTRALIAN DONATION REPORTED

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 5 Jul 85 p 1

[Excerpt]

Meanwhile, the Botswana Drought Relief Programme was this week given a further P113 320,20 boost through a donation from Australia, bringing the total amount of Australian assistance to the Programme to P573 320,20.

This was announced in a statement from the Coordinator of Rural Development in the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Mrs E.B. Mathe.

Mrs Mathe expressed the deepest gratitude for the donation and said it would certainly improve Botswana's ability to provide relief measures to the severely affected.

The funds, according to the statement, will be used to purchase cooking utensils for supplementary feeding centres which cater for malnourished children as a result of the drought.

They will also help build storage centres needed for the adequate distribution of food to the population now in its fourth year of serious drought, the release explains.

Mrs Mathe said the donation was channelled through the Australian High Commission in Harare, Zimbabwe.

CSO: 3400/751

BOTSWANA

CHINESE DELEGATION VISITS, DISCUSSES TRADE COOPERATION

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 8 Jul 85 p 1

[Text]

GABORONE: The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr Moutlakgola Nwako last week hosted a Chinese delegation which had arrived on Wednesday. The delegation led by the Chinese Minister of Metallurgical Industry, Mr L. Dongye was here on a follow-up visit following Botswana's missions to their country.

According to a release from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the two countries discussed possible long-term economic co-operation.

During the discussions, said the release, Mr Nwako recalled that already excellent technical and economic co-operation existed. He cited the rice project in Maun, the health project in Francistown and the railway up-grading in southern Botswana.

The two delegations also discussed the progress of the

processed trade agreement between their countries. On that issue, Mr Nwako informed his counterpart that a document to that effect had been approved by the cabinet and was currently being considered by the Southern African Customs Union Area before ratification.

Mr Nwako informed the Chinese that the Government firmly believed in the diversification of trade links with other countries including the People's Republic of China, said the release.

Minister Nwako also recalled that when he was in China sometime back, he saw many products which compared favourably in quality and price, to those "we are currently importing."

He said it was essential for the business community in Botswana to be increasingly aware of those new important procurement opportunities.

On the other hand, the Chinese delegation informed Mr Nwako that their visit was partly a follow-up of the trade and investment promotion mission he led from Botswana to China in late 1983.

The release also gave a brief account of a recent meeting between Mr Nwako and a delegation from South Korean trading company.

That delegation was led by Mr Hai Yong Rhee, the vice president and director of one of South Korea's biggest businesses, the Hyindai Corporation.

Matters discussed included the greater import of selected textiles from South Korea, with long-term possibilities of establishing a South Korea or joint venture operation for the making of specialist products. In addition, possibilities of vehicle assembly and steel rolling mill, were explored.

CSO: 3400/751

BOTSWANA

WHOLESALEERS ASKED TO STIMULATE EXPORTS

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 8 Jul 85 p 1

[Text]

GABORONE: The stimulation of Botswana exports and the diversification of import procurement sources are objectives the government would like to see undertaken by wholesalers.

This was said by the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Mr Edwin Matenge in an address to members of the proposed Botswana Wholesalers Association here last week.

He suggested that the association should regularly seek and endeavour to fully exploit possible alternative markets for imported items. We must not continue, he said, to buy from markets simply out of tradition.

Mr Matenge stated that it had been shown on many occasions that some of the products obtained from countries like South Africa could be more cheaply purchased from other markets.

He reiterated the fact that the overwhelming dependence on any one market for any country, in the world could produce problems. Mr Matenge pointed out that during the discussions with the visiting Chinese trade mission it became apparent that some goods from that part of the world, bought through South African distributors, were much more expensive than if they had been imported directly.

He also suggested the formation of specialist distributors for goods imported from other parts of the world such as Europe and North America. Mr Matenge stated that the financial and business climate in Botswana should be an incentive for foreign companies to consider the idea.

He requested those with links with wholesalers in

South Africa, to give some consideration through the proposed association to obtain sales for Botswana manufacturers in the interest of the Common Customs Union.

He stated that the proposed association should give particular attention to consumer protection. Mr Matenge said that since there were no formal consumer associations in the country, wholesalers and distributors had to take on some of the responsibility to ensure that goods they handle were of the right price, the appropriate quality and of a wide enough range offer a competitive selection for buyers.

He said in recent years it had been alleged that goods which would not be allowed to be distributed in their countries of manufacture because of health or other hazards, had been dumped in Third World countries.

CSO: 3400/752

BOTSWANA

ADB GRANTS LOAN FOR EDUCATION

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 5 Jul 85 p 1

[Excerpt]

GABORONE: Botswana will receive a P22 million loan from the African Development Bank (ADB), for the construction of 16 community junior secondary schools and two vocational training centres.

A press release from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, stated that a Botswana delegation comprising four people has just returned from Abidjan, Ivory Coast after successfully negotiating the loan.

The release said the construction of the 16 community junior secondary schools which is expected to begin later this year, is part of a large programme of providing such schools in the next six years, in order to address the present acute primary-school leaver problem. The two vocational

training centres which will be built in Jwaneng and Selebi-Phikwe, are part of a total of four to be constructed to provide technical training required particularly for the private sector.

A Loan Authorization Bill will be submitted to the next meeting of Parliament for approval in order to raise the loan. The ADB management will present the loan proposal to its board of directors for formal approval of the loan. About 45 per cent of the loan is an interest-free long term credit.

The Botswana delegation was led by the Director of Economic Affairs, Mr Kenneth Matambo. It included Mr O.T. Mapitse, Assistant Attorney General, Mr G. Kgomanyane, Chief Education Officer, Mr E. Odotei, Principal Economist and Mr N. Lindhart, the Director of Boipelego Education Unit.

CSO; 3400/751

BOTSWANA

OVER 1,100 IMPOVERISHED BY DROUGHT IN OKAVANGO

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 8 Jul 85 p 6

[Article by Russ Moloslwa]

[Text]

GABORONE: At least 1 130 people in Okavango sub district are known to have been hit by poverty emanating from the drought. It was feared that the number may go up if it did not rain during the next rainy season.

According to the Okavango sub-district, Senior Assistant Community Development Officer, Mrs Kagiso Senthufhe, the 1 130 destitutes are classified in three groups according to the severity with which they have been affected by drought.

About 885 of them are classified under group C, which consists of people who have lost all or at least almost all of their livestock as a result of the ravaging drought, said Mrs Senthufhe.

She further said that destitutes in group C were those who are not able to work in drought relief based

projects because they are either too old or disabled, and do not have their next of kin to take care of them. These people Mrs Senthufhe said were given rations of ten mugs of meal and six cups of cooking oil by the famine relief.

The most hard hit are classified under Group A according to Mrs Senthufhe who said that due to lack of funds admission into this group was very strict.

Only 28 people have been identified under this group. People in these group are given P8,50 worth of food from local shops and are also given five mugs of mealie-meal and 3 cups of oil every month.

One of those people hard hit, Mr Nyagana Monyango of Sepopa village is said to have lost 22 herd of cattle in the last 12 months only, and now remains with only one cow, thus qualifying as a group C destitute.

"I worked hard for years in South African mines to buy all those cattle but they all died within a few months," said Mr Monyango with sadness.

Another victim of drought in Okavango, Mr Setshogo of Shakawe said that he had lost 33 cattle in a few months and he expressed fear that more of his cattle may perish if it doesn't rain early enough.

According to Mrs Senthufhe the number of destitutes in the area is going up daily even though no one who has died because of drought. She appealed to the drought relief committee which is responsible for identifying and categorising destitutes to approve at least half of the least of destitutes sent to them by development officers.

CSO: 3400/752

BOTSWANA

BPP'S MOSOJANE DENIES CHARGES OF TRIBALISM

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 12 Jul 85 p 1

[Article by Leano Mphotho]

[Text]

FRANCISTOWN: The Northern Regional Chairman of the Botswana Peoples Party (BPP), Mr John Mosojane, has likened what he said could be "institutionalised" tribalism in Botswana to the South African apartheid policy.

Addressing a political rally at Sommerset here at the weekend Mr Mosojane said like apartheid in South Africa, institutionalised tribalism was a bad practice in Botswana.

Mr Mosojane said that if his party could be elected to power it would amend the constitution to harmonise what he referred to as "tribal tensions" in the country.

He dismissed as "utter nonsense" allegations that his party was a tribal one composed mainly of members of one tribe. Mr Mosojane said that his party drew supporters from all parts of the country and was becoming stronger.

He said the fact that for first time in the history of Botswana, there were mayors from opposition parties, was indicative of a new era of political consciousness in the country.

Mr Mosojane claimed that Batswana were discontented with the BDP government because it was failing to

address itself to employment and other needs. He expressed optimism that the BPP would do well in the next general elections.

Mr Mosojane said he wondered what the government was doing about factories which were closed down and resulted in the retrenchment of workers following the introduction of the rules of origin in Zimbabwe.

He also cautioned people against joining the Botswana National Front which he said believed in a one party state. Mr Mosojane claimed that if the BNF came to power the opposition could be silenced.

Another speaker, Councillor Motlatsi Molapisi, claimed that figures from the

Prisons Department indicated that 75 per cent of people sent to jail, committed crimes because they were not employed.

He said by building more prisons, the Government was only curing the symptoms of a disease instead of the cause. Councillor Molapisi said that if Government could create employment opportunities crime would be controlled.

Councillor Molapisi also complained about lack of localisation in the Administration of Justice and shortage of qualified doctors at the Jubilee Hospital, which he said were evident enough indications that the BDP Government had failed to provide social services to the community. *BOPA*

BOTSWANA

POPULATION WARNED AGAINST INFORMING ABOUT, SHELTERING REFUGEES

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 8 Jul 85 p 6

[Text]

SELEBI-PHIKWE: Batswana have been told to be extra suspicious if foreigners seek information of refugees, because of these elements were gathering intelligence information for the South African Defence Force.

The warning was sounded by the Minister of Education, Mr Kebatlamang Morake, who is also member of Parliament for Selebi-Phikwe, during a political rally here over the weekend.

Mr Morake said there was no doubt the South African Defence Force intelligence was being fed with information on refugees from the country.

He also warned residents about the danger of harbouring criminal elements within their midst. He asserted that some Batswana were being bribed by the South African Defence Force intelligence to release information on the whereabouts of refugees in Botswana and said this did not only undermine the security of refugees but also the safety of Batswana.

On Education, Mr Morake said our education standards

which were almost non-existent were quite impressive now. He assured his audience that Government would construct 27 additional secondary schools throughout the country, to measure it with the ever increasing number of standard seven leavers.

Another speaker at the rally was a BDP councillor in Francistown, Mr Pono Moatlhodi who said unlike the Botswana National Front (BNF) which promises people the impossible, his party has made a lot of contributions to national development.

He also said that the people had elected the BDP into power with the full confidence that it would continue to carry out national development as it had done in the past.

At the same rally, the Mayor of Selebi-Phikwe, Mr Modibane Kapaletswe briefed the audience about development projects to be carried out by the council in the near future.

He gave as an example, a number of primary roads to be tarmarked and said some streets would also be electrified.

COMOROS

BRIEFS

AIR PACT WITH MADAGASCAR--The first visit by Comoros president Ahmed ABDALLAH to Madagascar for the celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of independence was marked by the signature of an agreement authorising the airlines of the respective countries, Air Comores and Air Madagascar, to develop their co-operation. Although the latter serves the archipelago once a week, it could route one of its flights to Paris via Moroni. It is known that Air France did all it could to bring about an agreement between the two carriers in order to foil a plan for a Johannesburg-Paris service via Mornoi by a South African Airways plane painted in Air Comores colours (see I.O.N. N°172). The Comorian president flew home from Antananarivo aboard a special Boeing provided by the United States, accompanied by the U.S. ambassador to Moroni, Robert KEATING, who is normally resident in Madagascar. Washington is shortly to open an embassy in the Comoros. [Text] [Paris THE INDIAN OCEAN NEWSLETTER in English 6 Jul 85 p 2]

CSO: 3400/713

CONGO

OIL PRICE DECLINE PLACES PRESIDENT IN JEOPARDY

London AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL in English 3 Jul 85 pp 5-6

[Text]

If oil prices continue to drop, President **Dénis Sassou-Nguesso**'s delicate internal political position will be jeopardised. Though Brazzaville politics have been remarkably calm since last year's congress of the ruling *Parti Congolais du Travail* (PCT), negotiation with the IMF and *World Bank* — a prerequisite for an emergency economic policy — will almost certainly rekindle the rivalry between the pro-Soviet faction and the pragmatic group behind the president (AC Vol 25 No 21).

The economic crisis is a paradox: never have the prospects for the offshore oil industry been so bright. Output last year exceeded 6m tonnes for the first time and could be 7m tonnes this year. Discoveries by France's *Elf Aquitaine* group — notably the Tchibouéla field — and by Italy's *Agip* will substantially boost production during the next five years. Exploration activity by other companies is also increasing. The government is trying to attract **American** companies by offering more concessions in offshore areas as well as in the hinterland. (*Amoco* bought an offshore block in late 1983; *Conoco* recently acquired offshore acreage).

However, the rise in oil income has been more than matched by rocketing expenditure — the price Sassou-Nguesso has paid for four years of peace. Tribally-based patronage is very expensive. Somehow he has to reduce expenditure and clamp down on dissent. What he fears most is an alliance between ideological mavericks in the PCT and regional political barons — the combination which led to the assassination of President **Marien Ngouabi** in 1977. A potential rallying point for discontent in the northern Cuvette region, especially if Sassou-Nguesso aims for economic austerity, is former president, **Joachim Yhombi-Opango**. Since his release from prison late last year, the security forces have watched him very carefully. So far he has refrained from open politics, though he has encouraged his supporters in the armed forces, the administration and the exiled

opposition groups. His requests for a passport to travel to France for medical treatment have been turned down.

Sassou-Nguesso has also tried to get rid of potential southern trouble-makers. For example, he offered the presidency of the multinational *Air Afrique* to former prime minister **Louis-Sylvain Goma**, a Vili from the Pointe Noire region. After the suggestion was turned down, he offered the job to a northern friend, ex-foreign minister **Auxence Ikonga**, a Vili from the Pointe Noire region. The Vili have been unhappy since one of their main representatives, **Jean-Pierre Tchicaya-Thystere** was ousted from the premiership and his *de facto* position as party ideologue at last year's PCT congress. He was then placed under house arrest on trumped-up charges. Sassou-Nguesso's Vili wife, **Marie-Antoinette**, has tried to calm resentment in the Pointe Noire area.

Prime minister **Ange-Edouard Pongui** has been unable to deliver the support of the key Niari region in the south. Pongui's obstacle is **Célestin Goma-Foutou**, PCT secretariat member in charge of ideology. Active in politics for two decades, he is one of the few who dare publicly to question the president's directives. The Niari people also resented the arrest early last year of their kinsman **Ndalla Graille**, who was a co-founder of the PCT. Graille is capable of bringing the southern political elite against Sassou-Nguesso.

The Lari-Kongo people in the Pool area around Brazzaville have remained out of politics partly for fear of repression if they became active. Their only ministerial representative is **Bernard Combo Matsiona**, and few Lari-Kongo ascend to the higher ranks in the army. (Commander **Nzalakanda**, one of the Pool's rare senior officers, arrested last year for allegedly plotting against the government, has yet to be tried). At least the relative national prosperity in the early 1980s enabled many Pool people to get rich.

In an effort to curb anti-government activity by *Le Front de Libération des Batékés et des Baganigoulous* (FROLIBABA), the president has wooed the northern Batéké people, most importantly by rehabilitating Lt-Col. **Florent Tsiba** as director-general of *Ciment Congolais* after two years in the political wilderness. It will be recalled that in last year's reshuffle four cabinet posts were given to the Batéké.

The influence of the extreme northern Impfondo-Sangha region, long the stronghold of pro-Soviet hardliners, has diminished since the PCT congress. Commander **François-Xavier Katali**, once the much-feared minister of state security, is now in the humble job of minister of agriculture, and the former

vociferous foreign minister, **Pierre Nzé-M'ba** is in relative disgrace. Sassou-Nguesso has promoted his own supporters, such as **Ambroise Noumazalaye**, to short-circuit Katali. The political advance of higher education minister **Daniel Abibi** has strengthened the president's hand in Sangha area bordering Cameroun.

Opposition impotence

The opposition abroad has little impact, largely because it has failed to form a common front. The two main elements of the opposition, *Le Mouvement Patriotique Congolais* (MPC) headed by **Maitre Moudileno-Massengo** (a southerner from the Pool region), and **Ekondi Akola**, a former adviser to Yhombi-Opango, appear incapable of agreement. Yhombi-Opango's release from detention has deprived the MPC of one of its main demands. The party's Marxist leaning has anyhow alienated opposition groups like Dr. **Séraphin Bakouma's** *Parti Démocratique Congolais* which defend free-market principles.

The MPC publication, *Le front Uni de l'Opposition*, recently called for multi-party politics in Congo — a proposal the PCT is unlikely even to consider. We understand, however, that the government has already made a few discreet contacts with the MPC, offering its leaders jobs in the party and administration if they return from exile. Few have accepted. Some opposition figures without a base abroad, such as the Niari politician **Martin Mberi**, who lives in Paris, have been coaxed into visiting Brazzaville.

Perhaps the key to Sassou-Nguesso's tactics is his drive to place in all important posts in the armed forces and administration members of his own family, people from his home village of Oyo or tribal relatives from the Cuvette. Already about a third of the PCT politburo and central committee is from there. Often they are members of *Le Front de Libération des Mbochis et des Makouas* (FRO-BOMA), a secret organisation designed to counter FROLIBABA and support Sassou-Nguesso's local nominees. The region also has the lion's share of ministerial posts, especially the important ones.

Sassou-Nguesso will have to play his cards very carefully during the next few months, reducing official and unofficial expenditure without provoking the opposition too much. A potentially awkward matter is the special commission looking into misconduct in the parastatals such as *Hydro-Congo* (the oil company), *Lina-Congo* (airline) and *Coopmar* (fishing). The president's brother, **Maurice**, is political commissar at *Hydro-Congo*, which naturally provides the president with the resources he needs for his office. Not that there is anything to suggest Maurice is acting improperly.

Footnotes

1. Sassou-Nguesso will have to be careful not to offend *Le Mouvement du 22 Février* (M-22), which has become the ideological standard-bearer of his regime. M-22 activists such as **Camille Bongou** (head of the PCT permanent secretariat), **Ambroise Noumazalaye**, **Bernard Combo Matsiona**, **Joseph Elenga Ngaporo** and **Benoit Moudele Ngollo** will be against watering down what is left of Congo's Marxism.

2. He has a reputation as a pro-West pragmatist. In the early 1970s he added the "Ange" to his name because of his admiration for the then pro-Chinese extreme leftist Capt. **Ange Diawara**.

CSO: 3400/712

21 August 1985

DJIBOUTI

REPLACEMENT OF DEFENSE MINISTER EXPLAINED

Paris THE INDIAN OCEAN NEWSLETTER in English 6 Jul 85 p 1

[Text] What has happened that Djibouti's president Hassan GOULED should decide to dump publicly one of his most trusted allies since 1978, his defence minister Habib LOITA? There was no inkling of the latter's imminent disgrace when, on June 6, he made his traditional speech at celebrations marking the eighth anniversary of the Djiboutian armed forces. But the festivities were hardly over when things went sour. LOITA's brother Hassan BOKKO, Afar traditional chief of Gobaad was arrested. Though he was released two weeks later, an official communique from the presidency on June 29 announced the dismissal of the defence minister, and an authoritative source indicated that he was sacked "for activities contrary to the undertakings of members of the council of ministers."

According to information acquired by THE INDIAN OCEAN NEWSLETTER, Mr LOITA was accused of sending a letter to the government of Saudi Arabia, without informing the cabinet first, warning that food aid from Riyadh to the Djibouti Red Crescent, intended for drought victims in the Es-Eyla refugee camp, had been diverted by Issas. Two other similar letters reached the Saudis at the same time: one came from the Djibouti foreign ministry, and was signed by the ministry's head of personnel, ABOUBAKER Ali, also an Afar (he is now being held in custody in Gabod prison), while the other was from the prime minister's office. It had the approval of premier BARKAT Gourad Hamadou himself and was initialled by his chief of staff, Mr CHEIKO, who has so far been spared the president's wrath.

The letters implicitly accused the Red Crescent, which is headed by the wife of the president, of closing its eyes to the embezzlement of a sizeable quantity of food aid from Saudi Arabia, France, the European Economic Community and Libya. Those behind the thefts are senior Djiboutian officials, who sell the food at vast profit to traders coming from northern Somalia.

Informed of the situation, Riyadh immediately handed copies of the letters to the Saudi-based Afar sultan, Ali MIREH, who passed them on to his representative in Djibouti, Ismail ALI. The latter lost no time in complaining to the head of the president's office, Ismail GUEDI Harad, with the letters to back him up. Hassan GOULED, whose regime can not do without Saudi aid, used the eighth anniversary of Djibouti's

independence to make a moralising speech calling on officials to cease misusing their position. Those responsible for the embezzlements could consider themselves admonished, but that was all. The minister of defence, on the other hand, lost his position and his reputation a few days later.

There may well be a delay of several months before his successor is known. The head of the armed forces, chief of the general staff Ali MEHIDAL Weiss, an Issa, is well established. However two names of potential ministers are circulating: they are the current vice-president of the parliament, SAID Ibrahim Badouf, and an ordinary member, OUGOUREH Hassan Ibrahim. Both are Afars, as Djiboutian political practice demands, but of the Adha Rassoul clan. Mr LOITA comes from the other clan, that of the Debnes, which is highly indignant at his treatment and does not seem likely to provide the state with another defence minister for some considerable time.

CSO: 3400/711

ETHIOPIA

ROLE OF WPE POLITBURO, EPLF TALKS NOTED

London AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL in English 3 Jul 85 pp 3-4

[Text]

The *Workers Party of Ethiopia* (WPE) politburo, formed after the WPE's inauguration last September (AC Vol 25 No 19), has no ideological cohesion and no capacity to act as a decision-making body. With the decline of pro-Soviet and Marxist figures, notably **Legesse Asfaw**, head of state Lt-Col. **Mengistu Haile Mariam** is increasingly intolerant of advice from almost any quarter. The obvious need to counter economic decline, drought and civil war with practical economic measures and pragmatic politics has sharply boosted scepticism, at every level, of the expanding "Marxist-Leninist" bureaucracy. A new underground movement, the *Workers Party of Ethiopia - Democratic Front*, is in the process of hatching.

Though sceptics, for their own safety, espouse their views guardedly, the forming of the WPE constitution is prompting a growing amount of debate. A number of politburo members, such as minister of labour **Berhanu Bayeh**, would like to open up the constitution to discussion among the intelligensia, especially at the university. But Mengistu dislikes the idea, and is apparently determined to keep debate to a minimum and present the constitution for the Peoples Democratic Republic of Ethiopia at this year's 12 September anniversary celebrations.

In theory the WPE is to have the same structure as the Soviet communist party. The aim is to have an assembly of representatives from all the "nationalities" that make up Ethiopia. The Institute of Nationalities, which is responsible for working out the representation and researching the 90-odd linguistic groups in the country, is directly responsible to the WPE nationalities department, headed by politburo member **Shewandagne Belete**. Still considered an active Marxist, he is close to **Assefa Medhane**, a former member of the defunct Political Office for Mass Organisational Affairs, now a nom-

inal member of the institute, whose Marxist credentials likewise remain intact.

In practice neither the institute nor Shewandagne are likely to have much effect: Mengistu, with the irregular advice of a small circle of advisers, will make the decisions. The same applies to the WPE ideological department under politburo member **Shemelis Mazengia**. The department produces reams of theoretical material for dispatch to the party discussion forums throughout the country. Wearily officials pay lip-service to it, recognising that it is almost entirely superfluous.

The man upon whom Mengistu relies most is minister of public security Col. **Tesfaye Wolde Selassie**, who controls the entire security network, including military intelligence. Col. Tesfaye, like defence minister Gen. **Tesfaye Gebre Kidan**, is distinctly non-Marxist but very loyal to Mengistu. Practically every senior member of the government is under surveillance; some, including ministers, are under 24-hour close surveillance.

The regime is not as stable as it was before the famine began to bite last year. There is also growing dissatisfaction within the army and airforce officer corps, as is reflected in the pace of early retirements, postings and promotions. The most serious of the coup attempts was probably last September. An unconfirmed report from Addis Ababa stated that on the night of 11 September mines were found by chance under the pavement beneath the dignatories' stand in the square where the anniversary celebrations take place. We understand the perpetrators to be airforcemen.

In the short-term Mengistu will almost certainly remain fully in control. He has the invaluable back-up of the **East German** and Soviet security services, which work together with public security, and the advantage of a climate of fear in which few dare to make a move against him. But the narrowing of the circle of confidants around him suggests some uncertainty. For instance his half-brother, **Kassa Kibede**, though inexperienced in foreign affairs, has been appointed head of Ethiopia's mission to the UN in Geneva, where he promptly bought a property valued at around SwFr 3.5m (\$1.5m).

Others once considered close to Mengistu, such as Maj. **Dawit Wolde Giorgis**, the ambitious chairman of the government's *Relief & Rehabilitation Commission* (RRC), have fallen from grace. The forced evacuation and subsequent burning of the Ibnet refugee camp in early May was carried out expressly on orders from RRC headquarters in Addis Ababa. Mengistu was furious with Maj. Dawit, and demanded that Dawit consult him in future. Presumably the new moves to disband the camp have Mengistu's approval.

Talking to the Eritreans?

Against this background of uneasiness in Addis Ababa, publicity has recently been given to talks between the government and the main Eritrean guerrilla movement, the *Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front* (EPLF). Both sides, for reasons explained below, are under pressure at least to be seen to be negotiating. The impediment, however, to substantive talks is that the EPLF wants the government to commit itself to Eritrean independence before meaningful talks can be held — a demand which the government resolutely rebuffs. For public consumption both sides claim that they are ready to talk unconditionally.

The present round of diplomacy, which has yet to pass the stage of talking about talks, started last September in Rome under the auspices of the Italian Communist Party. Further talks were then held apparently in Aden, Khartoum and elsewhere. Intermittent talks continue.

Though there are no indications that either side is yet prepared to concede on the independence issue, progress has been made towards agreeing on a ceasefire. The EPLF might well announce one shortly in the hope that the Ethiopian government would quickly reciprocate. Certainly the government has every incentive to achieve a ceasefire: the expense of the war against the Eritreans and the Tigrayans is prohibitive — probably \$2m a day. Resources need to be diverted from military expenditure to famine relief, and, more controversially, to the huge programme for resettling northerners in the south west.

The EPLF is under equal pressure. At least 1.5m Eritreans need food relief. EPLF guerrilla morale, weakened by the continuing low-level Ethiopian bombing, is lower than ever — though not as low as the Ethiopian troops'. Following the re-establishment of full diplomatic relations last week between Sudan and Ethiopia, the EPLF obviously has more reason to fear a reduction of its facilities in, and supply routes from, Sudan. And the merger earlier this year (AC Vol 26 No 6) of three smaller Eritrean groups into the *Eritrean Unified National Council* is weaning Arab support away from the EPLF — a trend publicly lamented by the EPLF's head of external relations. Syria, significantly, appears to be one of the countries pushing the EPLF to negotiate with Addis Ababa.

But the EPLF's biggest concern is its deteriorating relations with the *Tigrayan Peoples' Liberation Front* (TPLF). The decline started in 1983 when the TPLF first proposed a united military and political force of all the anti-government groups. Last year the proposals were formalised and distributed before being made public last August. The EPLF discussed the proposals at its central committee meeting the following month. The response it sent privately to the TPLF was critical, reflecting EPLF annoyance

with the timing of the TPLF's decision to make the proposals public. The TPLF then countered the EPLF's criticism by producing in November a long document which stressed that the TPLF would not be dictated to. This March it duly re-published its proposals.

In May the EPLF returned the attack publicly, criticising the TPLF and saying that the Eritreans alone have the right to secede. Drawing a distinction between nations and nationalities, and between nationalities living exclusively in one area (like the Eritreans) and those split into several areas (like the Oromos), The EPLF drew particular attention to the predicament of the Afar people, who live mostly in Wollo and Tigray provinces. Together with the Tigrayans, Oromos and the other nationalities, the EPLF reckons the Afars should have the right to self-determination. (In 1978-79 the TPLF offered the Afars autonomy within a TPLF-run Tigray — an offer the Afars found insulting). The EPLF clearly wants to encourage anti-TPLF actions by the left-wing *Afar National Liberation Movement* (which anyhow cooperates with Addis Ababa) and the right-wing *Afar Liberation Front* (ALF) which recently ended three years of joint operations with the TPLF because of the latter's apparent refusal to allow ALF any publicity.

However, Afars also live in Eritrea — a fact that undermines partly the EPLF's argument. To justify the proposition that Afars in Tigray and Wollo have the right to self-determination, but not those Afars in Eritrea or *Djibouti*, the EPLF says the colonial powers broke down nationality and tribal barriers and gave the people the national consciousness (i.e. the idea for being Eritrean) that goes with political and economic unity. The Eritrean Afars, claims the EPLF, are therefore merely one of the nine nationalities in the single Eritrean nation. That the biggest nationality in Eritrea is Tigrayan is ironic, and a growing worry for the EPLF. In its May document, the EPLF says pointedly "once the separate national identity of a multi-national people is recognised, it is unacceptable to demand from without that certain nationalities join hands with you".

The TPLF, already angry because the EPLF did not inform it before starting indirect talks with the Ethiopian government, is riled by the EPLF's May criticisms, particularly over EPLF questioning of the TPLF's handling of Tigrayan refugee matters. The TPLF-EPLF alliance, which is militarily of great importance, is not about to be revoked. But stress between the two movements has reached the point where armed clashes could break out.

Footnote

1. The Ethiopians claim the majority of those moved are from Wollo, and that only 28,000 had been moved from Tigray by the end of May.

ETHIOPIA

'FORGOTTEN' WAR ON THREE FRONTS DESCRIBED

Paris AFRICAN DEFENCE JOURNAL in English Jul 85 pp 54-57

[Article by Pierre Viaud]

[Text]

The origin of the breaks

After having resisted Muslim growth for several centuries, Ethiopia, a Christian empire on the African continent, had to contend with threats from the growing European colonial appetite starting at the end of the 19th century. The country was in particular threatened by Italy, which installed a power base on the Eritrean coast starting in 1869, with the purchase of the port of Assab. France established itself at Obock, near Djibouti, in 1884 to build its influence in the country, while London and Rome began secret negotiations for the division and sharing of the country. What these European powers were looking for was a hold on access to the sea. The peace treaty of 1896, which followed the first victory of Ethiopian troops over the Europeans, left Eritrea under Italian control. Shortly afterwards, agreements more or less fixed the precise limits of French possessions in the region. To the east and south, the British and Italians split up Somalia. Before the outbreak of the conflict with Italy, Emperor Menelik had tried to expand his empire, which remained at the time limited to Abyssinia proper, that is to say the high plateaux where the people spoke Amharic and the dominant religion was Orthodox Christian. Victorious campaigns against the troops of Muhammad Abdullah Hassan, the Mullah of Somalia, succeeded in sparking an uprising against the British and Italians at the beginning of the century. Other expeditions to the south enabled Menelik to annex the Harrar, Ogaden and Haud provinces, along with the Kafa, Sidamo and Galla regions, giving Ethiopia borders that roughly correspond to its present day state.

World War II signalled the end of the Italian occupation, who surrendered to the Free

French and British forces, aided by Ethiopian freedom fighters. Haile Selassie, who had been forced into exile, returned to the capital in 1941. Although peace had been established, Ethiopia encountered difficulties in establishing its territorial integrity and independence. Rome claimed to have a UN mandate for continued administration of the country. Egypt laid claim to Eritrea, and Great Britain wanted to annex the Ogaden to its Somali holdings. Thanks to the energetic undertakings of the Ethiopian foreign affairs minister, Eritrea was placed under his country's administration as a federal territory, while the Haud and Ogaden provinces, occupied until 1954 by British troops, were returned to Ethiopian rule. But the border with Italian Somalia, which Rome continued to govern under its UN mandate, was not determined. In 1962, the Eritrean parliament unanimously voted — a vote considered more or less manipulated — to simply incorporate the territory as part of Ethiopia. The ancient empire of Axoum would thus undergo the greatest territorial expansion in its history: 1 184 000km² (740 000 square miles), or over twice the total area of France. But while Addis Ababa gained a coastline with the ports of Massoua and Assab, the Amharic speaking, Orthodox Christian population ceased to be a majority. It now accounted for only 40% of the 25 million inhabitants. Eritrean separatists and Somali claims would pose new problems to an Ethiopia that had barely recovered from the struggle against Italian occupation and WWII. The inter-mixing of the different peoples throughout Ethiopia's often tormented history has been considerable. But the rifts between the Abyssinian Christians, who hold the majority of the leadership

positions, and the Moslem population of the Eritrean province remain deep.

Having survived the threat of partition imposed by the colonial powers, Ethiopia now was faced with the problems of the emancipation of Africa.

Initial conflicts

The first border dispute with Somalia broke out in 1964, the latter having gained its independence in 1960. British policy, which had united the Italian and British sections of the country into a single state, could not help but recall to mind the bitter memories of the Anglo-Italian attempts at dividing Ethiopia. And Mogadishu did not hide its hopes of incorporating the Ethiopian Ogaden, Djibouti and the northeast of Kenya, all populated by ethnic Somalis, into a «Grand Somalia».

After several weeks of hostilities, a ceasefire was gradually negotiated by Sudan. The two parties agreed to seek a negotiated solution to their border conflict. But while tension with Somalia eased up, at least for the time being, agitation to worsened in Eritrea, where a separatist movement had grown up: the Front for the Liberation of Eritrea, or FLE. The FLE had support from the Sudanese government, which allowed it to organize anti-Ethiopian demonstrations in Khartoum.

Opening diplomatic strategy

The Emperor's diplomatic strategy was henceforth dominated by a concern for establishing alliances that would counter sustained agitation with sympathetic support from Arab and socialist nations. His natural allies in this context seemed to be Western nations and African countries, at the time generally supportive of Israel. Addis Ababa had easily recognized the latter due to the historical ties between the two countries. The United States, Kenya and France were, of course, favorable to aiding Ethiopia. But the Emperor also undertook to establish closer ties with the USSR, based on the friendly relations that Addis Ababa had maintained with Czarist Russia, which considered the Coptic Church as a sister institution to the Russian Orthodox Church. In 1965, the Soviets began construction of an oil refinery at Assab, under the terms of a technical assistance agreement, and other socialist countries in Eastern Europe pitched in with aid to Ethiopia.

The worsening of Israel-Arab relations and the civil war in Sudan complicated the situation, however. Arab nations accused Addis Ababa and Tel Aviv of supporting the rebels in southern Sudan, and upped their aid to the FLE. At the beginning of the 1970s, Ethiopia established ties with Beijing and

strengthened its relations with Moscow. This rapprochement did not silence its critics, though, in particular the militants in the Arab camp, who continued to attack the Emperor for accepting military aid from the United States and supporting Israel. Ethiopia was accused of having allowed Israel to establish secret bases on the islands off the Eritrean coast. This ensured continued supplies for the FLE, which was able to pull off a number of spectacular operations. Addis-Ababa went even further in seeking conciliation with Arab and socialist countries: it announced the break-off of diplomatic relations with Israel, following most African nations after the October 1973 war, along with the progressive withdrawal of American troops from the Kagnew base, which had been staffed by up to 8000 American soldiers and technicians.

A Second strategy phase follows the fall of the emperor

After the events of February 1974, an attempt at reform led to the creation of a 120-member military council, the Dergue. It soon became evident that this council held all power in the nation and was simply waiting for an opportunity to depose the emperor. In September of the same year, Haile Selassie, the King of Kings, was deposed without ceremony. In the provinces, a number of leading aristocrats, including Ali Mirah, the sultan of Afar, and the Ras Mengesha Seyoum, governor of Tigre, took to hiding.

In Eritrea, following the failure of negotiations with local leaders, the Dergue took to the offensive. Repressive policies were ruthlessly applied, and 1000 to 2000 people were killed during a battle at Asmara in February 1975. The Eritrean secessionists were also weakened by internal dissent. The FLE, founded in 1961 by Idriss Mohamed Adam, a pro-Arab, anti-communist Moslem, was faced with competition from the Peoples Front for the Liberation of Eritrea (EPLF), founded in 1970 and dominated by Christians and progressives. The EPLF rallied a former FLE leader, Osman Sabbeh. The two organizations regularly fight one another and then declare a truce, and are both supported and given refuge by Sudan, which regularly offers to act as mediator. In 1976, the Eritrean revolt made considerable inroads. The «red march» organized by a hastily formed and armed militia supported by the Dergue, following the model of the Moroccan «Green March», suffered a serious setback.

That same year, however, the EPLF was weakened by an internal dispute with Osman Sabbeh, who organized a third movement,

the Eritrean Liberation Front — Peoples Liberation Force (ELF-PLF). The leaders of the EPLF could not come to terms with the FLE, however. Eritrea remains practically 100% under the control of the secessionists, though, with the exception of major urban areas such as Asmara and Massaoua.

The Dergue was shaken by a purge in February 1977, and Mengistu Haile Mariam seized power. He quickly put Ethiopia on a Marxist-Leninist course, which led to a turnabout in foreign relations. Ethiopia found itself in an increasingly critical situation. The Eritrean threat was now seconded by the increased activity of the West Somali Liberation Front, actively supported by Mogadischu. The movement was gradually making inroads in the Ogaden region. Fidel Castro, who was travelling through Africa at Moscow's behest, attempted to bring peace to the entire Horn of Africa during a secret meeting with Mengistu, Somali President Siad Barre, and the head of Southern Yemen. The two African leaders refused the formation of a Yemeni-Somalian-Ethiopian alliance, however, which would have included a provision for autonomy for Eritrea and the Ogaden. Shortly afterwards, Mengistu travelled to Moscow, and the previous alliances were overturned: the USSR promised weapons to the Ethiopian government, which quickly downgraded its relations with the USA. Although Moscow had until then supported Somalia, which had just declared a second war with Addis Ababa, Cuban troops and Soviet advisers came to reinforce the Ethiopian Army. The direct intervention of a superpower in Ethiopian affairs thus helped step up the war on three fronts, a war waged with such complexity that public opinion scarcely takes any interest in its development. This war is clearly a «forgotten war», however curious that might seem.

Eritrea and the endless secession

It is much easier to comprehend the mechanism of Eritrean secession if one keeps in mind the period mentioned above, during which the Amharas undertook their expansion to the expense of the other ethnic groups. These other groups were often heterogenous, but shared the fact that they were not Christians, but for the most part Moslems. Eritrean autonomy, established following World War II, was transformed in 1962 by a vote of the Eritrean parliament. The measure called for pure and simple annexation to Ethiopia. A resistance movement was organized. The result was the formation of three liberation movements, as

cited above. The most powerful of these was the EPLF, which appeared in the 1970s. After a 25-year struggle, Eritrean guerrillas are the oldest fighters in Africa. They trained the opponents to Selassie's rule and today train the most virulent opponents of the present regime. These fighters are supported by an impressively organized network, with backing from the civilian population. In the Sahel mountains, village militia take charge of transport of weapons and food on camel-back to the different fronts. The EPLF has in turn organized women, young people and farmers into associations. Hundreds of «barefoot doctors» travel through the villages, dispensing medical care and basic hygiene training. Schools have also been opened, most of them underground, and in people's stores the EPLF offers certain products at reduced prices. The rear bases in the Sahel mountains are also impressive. With ant-like patience, the guerrillas have dug into the rocks to build fortified hospitals, workshops, print shops and garages. While activities are limited during the day due to the threat from Ethiopian aviation, the night brims with activity: the information section prints magazines, newspapers, schoolbooks and broadcasts radio programmes in Tigre and Tigrinia, the two main languages spoken in Eritrea, as well as in Amharic. Truck convoys link the bases to camps along the Sudanese border over a road network that has been literally hand-dug in the mountains. Despite the differences that exist between nomad and sedentary segments of the population, between Moslems and Christians, the struggle for independence has united the vast Eritrean mosaic, comprised of 11 different peoples. To all of them, the EPLF has brought a common cause. Whether for production, education, political training, refugee aid or health care, the EPLF operates like a government. Large numbers of political and technical advisers are being trained in the bush. This organization has held out against the Ethiopian Army for over 23 years, with the latter having launched six major offensives. The last of these, code-named «Red Star», was headed in 1982 by President Mengistu himself; and led to a major setback for the Ethiopian government forces.

It should be noted that since the outset of the conflict, guerrilla tactics have been simple. They consist of taking over not only the countryside, but also the cities and villages of all of the provinces in Eritrea. And each time the insurgents succeed in taking too great a number of cities, the Ethiopian government intervenes with a large-scale offensive aimed at retaking the cities and the countryside, as well as attacking rebel strongholds.

During operation «Red Star», the Ethiopian Army called on impressive means: 120,000 troops, MiG aircraft, tanks and helicopters, backed by Soviet and Cuban advisers, Libyan and Southern Yemen contingents, and for the first time, a lethal nerve gas. This time the city of Nakfa, occupied by the EPLF for seven years, was the main objective. The city held out, however.

Between the major offensives, government troops harass the secessionists with repeated small-scale surprise attacks.

After 23 years of fighting, Eritrea would seem to be unconquerable, but still the fighting goes on.

Tigre — the Eritrean connection

In December 1974, Ras Mengesha Seyoum, former governor of the province of Tigre, wanted dead or alive by Ethiopian military authorities, founded a resistance movement aimed at gaining the secession of the province he had administrated. The movement was formed in the province of Bagemde, to the west of Tigre. Ras Mengesha's forces, amounting to 600 men, were supported by the FLE and the EPLF. Despite their common background, the Tigrina language and a deep mistrust of the Amhara, who had dominated the country for years, the Eritreans opposed a union between the Tigre Peoples Liberation Front and their own movements. Over the years, the objective of the Tigre rebels, as is the case with many similar movements around the world, was to use spectacular actions to establish an identity and the authority contested by the central government. Unlike the Eritreans, who had become used to guerrilla combat, the Tigre forces specialized in taking hostages, operations that seemed to have much greater impact outside of the region. In April 1983 the TPLF kidnapped 10 members of humanitarian organizations. In August 1984, 10 Swiss citizens were taken hostage in Wollo Province. And in October 1984 14 foreigners were captured during an attack on Lalibela. All of them were freed following several weeks of detention in «liberated» zones.

TPLF leaders, who call for the creation of a multinational state, claim to control 85% of the territory in Tigre. Here too, the major operations launched by the government do not seem to have had any great success. While the regular army seems to control the major highways and cities, it does not dare venture much beyond these zones. The brief kidnapping on March 3, 1985, of 5 crew members of a Transall aircraft at Lalibela, all French en route from Djibouti with food aid

for the region, revealed the strength of the insurgents. On January 9, 1985, Tigrean combattants claimed to have carried out a number of attacks in the north of the country, during which 559 Ethiopian troops were reported to have been killed or wounded. They even succeeded in holding the Wogera district capital of Dabat for 5 days.

Ogaden disputed by Somalia and Ethiopia

The first conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia was briefly dealt with earlier in this article. From November 1977 to March 1978, the two countries again opposed one another over the Somali ethnic population residing in the Ogaden. The Somalia of General Barre, for whom Moscow had just dropped its support, turning instead to Addis Ababa, had setback to its conquest was the consequence of a clearly erroneous choice of action. Attacking Ethiopia when it had openly chosen the Marxist-Leninist road, obviously meant risking the loss of Soviet support, without being assured of Western support to replace it. The Somalis thought they were taking on a country where anarchy reigned, and did not count on Ethiopia's being able to get quickly back on its feet following its alliance with Moscow. In 1982, during July, Mogadishu accused Addis Ababa of having engaged an offensive against Somalia with tanks and aviation, directed by Cuban, Soviet and Southern Yemen advisers. For its part, Addis Ababa set up a radio station for broadcasts by opponents of the Somali regime.

Violent combats took place on August 15, 1982 along the central axis of Galcaio, in the center of Somalia, 40km within the country's borders. This obliged President Barre to decree a state of emergency for the border zone with the Ethiopian Ogaden. The site of the clashes was no accident. The Galcaio axis is Somalia's most vulnerable region. There are barely 200km between the Ethiopian border and the Indian Ocean. By cutting this desert strip in two, Ethiopia was looking to assure an opening to the Indian Ocean. Its own coastal access was subject to attacks from Eritrean and Tigrean guerrillas. Barre received emergency aid from the United States in July and August of 1982. Moscow's hopes that the Somali regime would be overturned were dashed. Ethiopian troops retreated five months later.

In late November 1984, the hijacking of a Somali Boeing to Addis Ababa by three Somali military officers again heightened tension between the two countries. Ethiopia, since 1982, has been supporting liberation movements looking to overthrow the Barre regime.

Two new weapons against the secessionists: hunger and forced depopulation

The extreme drought that has reigned for several years in this part of the world has led, despite agrarian reforms, to a shortage of food supplies. The international aid being sent to Ethiopia must therefore be distributed to all the regions of this country, a country that has been decimated by conflicts that have lasted over a hundred years. Despite this situation, Addis Ababa has declared that it refuses to sign a cease-fire with the secessionist provinces in order to cut off their supplies. These provinces, however, through continuing guerrilla operations, have succeeded in procuring some international economic aid.

The government has thus found other means of taking away civilian support for the liberation movements, by gradually displacing the inhabitants of the provinces that oppose it to other provinces under its authority. This Machiavelian scenario may lead to the end of the forgotten war on three fronts.

CS0: 3400/745

ETHIOPIA

TALKS WITH EPLF RUMORED

Paris THE INDIAN OCEAN NEWSLETTER in English 6 Jul 85 p 3

[Text] Rumours from several sources for more than nine months have spoken of negotiations being conducted secretly between the Ethiopian government and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front. They were said to have begun shortly before the visit to Damascus last October of EPLF secretary-general RAMADAN Mohamed Nur. According to the rumours the talks were directly brokered by Moscow, with the support of Damascus and Aden.

I.O.N.- Although the two warring sides have not broken their silence on this topic, it appears the aim is for a global solution to the Horn of Africa problem, taking advantage of the recent change of power in Khartoum, though Somalia seems to have been excluded from the plan. Sudan, faced with the rebellion in the south supported by Addis Ababa, could be brought into it (it is noteworthy that the Ethiopian authorities unofficially confirmed this week that ambassadors would be exchanged between Khartoum and Addis Ababa following the visit to the Ethiopian capital two weeks ago of a high-ranking delegation from Sudan).

The form of settlement being envisaged, such as a federation or confederation, is still not known, but it is difficult to see how the EPLF could agree to discuss any solution which would exclude some sort of political independence for Eritrea. These reports of talks, though unconfirmed, coincide with a notable lessening in the number of clashes between the EPLF and Ethiopian government forces, and a worsening of relations between the Eritrean group and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (see I.O.N. N°185 and 188).

CSO: 3400/711

MADAGASCAR

RENEWED STUDENT UNREST REPORTED

Paris THE INDIAN OCEAN NEWSLETTER in English 6 Jul 85 p 2

[Text] Is Madagascar heading for renewed agitation among university students, like that which occurred in 1981? While it may be too early to say so with certainty, it cannot be denied that some unrest is perceptible, with the appearance of numerous campus graffiti recently. The spectre of unemployment and the mismanagement of the country's economy seem to be at the root of the problem.

There has been one new development since the events which shook the universities three years ago: a structure has been set up to bring together students, their teachers and the private sector, sponsored by the FFKM, the Christian Council of Churches in Madagascar, the only opposition force tolerated in the country these days. Meetings aimed at working out a programme of joint demands regularly take place, involving delegates from the union of teachers and educational researchers (SECES), students and teachers of different political persuasions, but especially from the MONIMA party, and representatives from the private sector such as André RAMAHOSON, president of union of Malagasy industrialists. The MFM party, led by MANANDAFY Rakotonirana, a member of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, is also said to be not uninvolved in these meetings, even though the party belongs to the official National Front for the Defence of the Revolution.

CSO: 3400/711

MADAGASCAR

BRIEFS

FRENCH AID--Madagascar is to receive a 16 million franc loan from France's Caisse Centrale de Coopération Economique to finance the modernisation of equipment at the country's largest textile plant, the Cotoniere d'Antsirabe (COTONA). [Excerpt] [Paris THE INDIAN OCEAN NEWSLETTER in English 6 Jul 85 p 7]

CSO: 3400/713

MAURITIUS

LANGUAGE ROW SPLITS GOVERNMENT

Paris THE INDIAN OCEAN NEWSLETTER in English 6 Jul 85 p 5

[Text] Dev Vira SAWMY, a leading figure in the ruling MSM-PMSD-RTM coalition in Mauritius since his defection from the opposition MMM, disclosed to the press this week that the government was currently deeply split over policy. One faction, he said, was "modernist" and favoured democracy, while the other wanted to dismantle the country's democratic institutions, particularly the press.

I.O.N.- These disclosures, which come soon after similar revelations by former ministers Sir Satcam BOOLELL (whose Labour party is no longer in government) and MSM "rebel" Sylvio MICHEL, as well as Youssouf MOHAMED, still a member of the coalition, have embarrassed the government. One bone of contention is the conservative wing's alleged desire to diminish the importance of French in the country's schools, and a "language battle" is said to pit Gaetan DUVAL's PMSD against the MSM under Harris BOODHOO. Although the two parties have close links, the former wants the status of French maintained while the latter opposes it. In a front-page story recently the daily Le Mauricien reported the existence of a government plan to downgrade French, paradoxically at a time when Paris is the principal source of aid for Port Louis. On the side of the "modernists", foreign minister Anil GAYAN, although a member of the MSM, is said to have strongly criticised such a project and to be backing the installation of a national unity government to include the MMM. For the moment, the MMM has not reacted. It is itself in the throes of serious internal disputes, according to a local party official, Mr DOOHARIKA, who has just been suspended for "indiscipline". He and others want to keep Paul BERENGER as party leader while another faction wants him replaced. Mr DOOHARIKA accused in particular the anti-BERENGER tendency of favouring an alliance with the MSM, the party of prime minister Anerood JUGNAUTH.

CSO: 3400/711

MAURITIUS

ISLAND GETS 'LIBERAL' BUDGET

Paris THE INDIAN OCEAN NEWSLETTER in English 6 Jul 85 p 8

[Text] The finance minister of Mauritius, Vishnu LUTCHMEENARAIDOO, presented a liberal budget to his country's parliament on June 28. In his speech he put the accent on the fact that the government will continue to press for the consolidation of the private sector and will try to reduce the tax burden on businesses and the middle classes. However, he denied accusations by some members of parliament that he had "capitulated to capital".

The new budget, which has received the approval of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank (whose stamp it bears, moreover, with the officialisation of the concept of "liberalism"), provides for global expenditure of 6.2 billion rupees (402 million dollars), an increase of nine per cent over last year. Investment rises to 1.5 billion rupees. The budget deficit has been fixed at 789 million rupees, the equivalent of 5.3 per cent of gross national product which is the maximum allowed by the IMF. Mr LUTCHMEENARAIDOO said that 198 million rupees of this deficit would be met by foreign borrowing, the remainder coming from the domestic financial market.

Assessing the financial year just ending, the minister said the economy had recorded a growth rate of 4.2 per cent in 1984, better than the forecast of 3.1 per cent. He attributed it to the excellent performance of the duty-free zone, whose growth was 21 per cent and whose exports went up 65 per cent. The zone now accounts for 42 per cent of the country's total exports compared with 31 per cent in 1983. Tourism, agriculture and construction had also made satisfactory progress, he said.

However, unemployment and inflation still cast shadows over the economic scene. In February 67,538 people were registered unemployed, while the rate of inflation went from 5.6 per cent in 1983-84 to 8.3 per cent in 1984-85. The balance of payments also hit serious trouble, with foreign currency reserves falling to dangerously low levels on several occasions and increasing the country's dependence on the IMF.

The private sector and management organisations gave a favourable welcome to the new Finance Act, unlike the blue-collar trade unions which fear a surge in prices. A 3.8 per cent rise in duty on imported goods, announced the day after the presentation of the budget, is bound, it is true, to have repercussions on the cost of living.

MAURITIUS

BRIEFS

CHINESE GIVE FREE LOAN--The first session of the join Sino-Mauritian economic commission finally took place from June 27 to July 1 at Port Louis, after being postponed for a time following reports that Mauritian prime minister Anerood JUGNAUTH might visit Taiwan (see I.O.N. N°186). A Chinese vice-premier, SONG Ping, led Beijing's side. China is to give Mauritius an interest-free loan of 12.4 million dollars and open up 1.8 million dollar line of credit. This money will be used to finance the construction of a 12,000-seat stadium by China. [Text] [Paris THE INDIAN OCEAN NEWSLETTER in English 6 Jul 85 p 2]

CSO: 3400/713

NAMIBIA

RADIO ACCUSES SWAPO LEADERSHIP OF CORRUPTION

MB190929 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 19 Jul 85

[Text] The ordinary SWAPO fighter in the bush should reassess his position in relation to the leadership of the terrorist organization. Once again, SWAPO leaders have been accused of misusing the movement's funds, and of living in relative luxury while many SWAPO followers go hungry.

The latest charges are made in a report by the Frankfurt-based International Society of Human Rights, known by its German initials, IGFM. Attempts by the human rights society to interview SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma met with failure. Afterward, the society reported that Mr Nujoma was very busy with parties, receptions, revolutionary celebrations, and dinners with Russian emissaries.

Former SWAPO members told the researchers that relief funds and goods were being appropriated and misused by SWAPO leaders. (Ngiza Indanjoni), a former bookkeeper in SWAPO'S office in Luanda, said that the SWAPO leaders sold blankets, meat, and medicine, and made good business out of it. She also said SWAPO had inflated the number of Namibian refugees from around 20,000 to a fictitious 100,000, in order to acquire more relief money. A former SWAPO official, Mr Joseph Mulunga, told the human rights society that relief goods destined for Namibian refugees were being intercepted and sold on the black market in Angola by the SWAPO leadership corps.

In the late 1970s, similar accusations were leveled against the SWAPO leadership. Several SWAPO members published a document in which Sam Nujoma was accused of massive embezzlement of funds entrusted to him by the OAU liberation committee, the World Council of Churches, and Scandinavian countries. The document also painted a grim picture of deprivation suffered by the SWAPO fighters--poorly trained, poorly armed, and on the verge of starvation.

The upshot of this situation is that SWAPO terrorists are being killed by the hundreds as they cross into South-West Africa. These are no longer military missions. They are suicide missions for SWAPO fighters. The clear evidence is therefore that, while Sam Nujoma and his henchmen live it up and have a good time in the capital cities of the world, terrorist forces are experiencing a grim and futile fight against the SADF, which is the most powerful on the continent.

NAMIBIA

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT 'TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE' SAYS DIRK MUDGE

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 30 Jul 85 p 13

[Text]

WINDHOEK. — A Central Government for South West Africa which consisted of representatives of separate ethnic groups was "totally unacceptable and even dangerous," the Minister of Finance in the territory's Transitional Government, Mr Dirk Mudge, said yesterday.

"The consequences . . . with Black against White . . . would be too ghastly to contemplate," he said in the National Assembly when he opened the second reading debate on the Constitutional Council Bill.

The Bill makes provision for the establishment of a Council on which all participating parties in the Transitional Government will have representation, and which will be briefed with the task of drawing up a draft constitution for SWA within the next 17 months.

The establishment of the Council is in line with the Multi-Party Conference Government's declaration of intent to "lead our country to a nationally acceptable independence which can gain international recognition".

Mr Mudge said the way he saw it, political cooperation in the territory

was only possible if it crossed ethnic and language barriers.

There was a definite need for the establishment of the Constitutional Council as everyone in SWA agreed the present political dispensation was not satisfactory.

The only differences among the different groups were the nature of the change needed, the tempo with which it should take place, and the procedures that should be followed.

Mr Mudge appealed to all political leaders in the country to be objective and not be dogmatic at this stage.

One of the major issues the constitutional council would have to look at would be proclamation AG-8, providing for racially based second-tier governments in the territory, because there were definite shortcomings.

"This will have to be looked at, in depth, for possible improvement or even replacement, if necessary," the Minister said.

He pointed out, however, that the Bill tabled yesterday made provision for the Cabinet to decide not to refer AG-8 to the new Council.

There were other ways to make temporary

changes to the political dispensation in SWA while the draft constitution was being awaited and it was quite possible this could happen with AG-8.

Mr Mudge also appealed to members not to request the new Council to investigate interim changes in the present dispensation as this would delay the drafting of the final constitution. Members should rather use the alternative options available to them if they felt something had to be changed urgently.

The Bill only makes provision for the six participating parties in the Transitional Government — the Labour Party, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, the Reheboth Free Democratic Party, the SWA National Party, the Swapo Democrats, and an SWA National Union grouping — to have representation on the Constitutional Council.

Mr Mudge emphasised,

however, that the MPC Government was committed to continuing efforts to bring other political parties in SWA which had so far boycotted the process to the negotiation table.

If parties like the South West Africa People's Organisation decided to join in time, representation could also be provided for them on the Council.

If boycotting parties left it too late to ensure representation, the draft constitution would still have to be negotiated with them, if possible, and it would ultimately have to be put before the people of SWA/Namibia for their approval or rejection, Mr Mudge said.

Dealing with the current situation at local, or municipal government level, the minister said the cabinet would not hesitate any longer in finding ways for all members of urban communities to have a say in this sphere.

CSO: 3400/809

NAMIBIA

DISPUTES DELAY FORMATION OF NEW COUNCIL

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 31 Jul 85 p 11

[Text]

WINDHOEK. — The establishment of a constitutional council to draft an independence constitution for South West Africa will be delayed for at least three weeks as the National Assembly adjourned yesterday morning until August 14 so that disputes over technical issues can be settled.

Yesterday's adjournment was proposed by the Minister of Finance, Mr Dirk Mudge, after the second reading debate on the Constitutional Council Bill was adjourned on Monday.

Mr Mudge said yesterday morning he believed debates were being held that were not in the country's interest because of a lack of clarity over technical issues.

He suggested the Assembly adjourn so that all parties could satisfy themselves over the contents of the Cape Town document of the Multi-Party Conference submitted to the South African State President and over whether proclamation AG-8 — providing for racially based second-tier authorities — was a constitutional issue or not.

On Monday, the leader of the Swapo-Democrats, Mr Andreas Shipanga, and the Swanu leader, Mr

Moses Katjiuongua, alleged provisions had been slipped into the Constitutional Council Bill without the knowledge of their parties.

The debate was also marked by an apparent turnabout by Mr Mudge who said the Bill made provision for the Cabinet to decide not to refer proclamation AG-8 to the Constitutional Council.

Until Monday, Mr Mudge had insisted AG-8 was a constitutional matter and, therefore, had to be referred to the Constitutional Council to be discussed.

Mr Shipanga alleged there were new elements in the Bill on which his party had not been consulted.

These elements had also not been included in the proposals for setting up the transitional government which were presented to the South African State President, Mr P W Botha.

Mr Shipanga referred to a clause in the Bill which says no Bill which aims at the repeal of the Reheboth Self-Government Act, the Representative Authorities Proclamation, and the constitution of any representative

authority, can be introduced in the National Assembly without the prior approval of the Cabinet.

Such approval can only be given if a recommendation is made by the Constitutional Council based on a decision by all of its members or if the Cabinet unanimously agrees.

Mr Shipanga said these provisions would effectively neutralise the Constitutional Council, and were contrary to the State President's proclamation establishing the new government on June 17.

He said these clauses must have been discussed by certain parties with others being excluded and the doctrine of consensus was well known to be that of the National Party.

Mr Katjuongua said the person who drafted the Bill should have confined himself to the provisions concerning the Constitutional Council contained in the document presented to the State President.

He said another new element was the clause limiting the position of chairman of the Constitutional Council to a judge or former judge of the South West African Supreme Court or the Supreme Court of South Africa.

It had not been specified previously that the chairman should come from Southern Africa, he said.

CSO: 3400/809

NAMIBIA

INDEPENDENCE NOT IN NEAR FUTURE

Windhoek DIE REPUBLIKEIN in Afrikaans 4 Jun 85 p 5

[Text] "At the moment we are being told that true independence for South-West Africa/Namibia is on the back burner, at least for a number of years, and that a form of internal semi-independence will be seriously pursued," said Prof Wolfgang Thomas yesterday evening in Windhoek, when he addressed the Interessen Gemeinschaft [Partnership of Concern] of Windhoek.

Prof Thomas, an economics professor at the University of West Cape Province, said that Namibia was always more of a strategic and internal political problem for South Africa, rather than accomplishing what the mandate required of South Africa.

There is a prevailing fear in South Africa that a "communist power" will hoist its flag in South-West Africa/Namibia. Recent happenings in South Africa have markedly confirmed this sentiment. South Africa also learned over the past eight years that foreign aid to an independent Namibia will amount to only a small part of what South Africa annually contributes to Namibia.

If a wholesale white exodus is to be prevented, an independent Namibia will have to receive extensive aid from South Africa. Independence will thus now force South Africa to budget less money for defense.

At the moment, the cry for immediate implementation of Resolution 435 seems to be empty talk--almost like a political cliché.

No kind of internal settlement seems logical.

But after saying all of this, one must also make a number of seemingly contradictory remarks:

- 1) He has no doubt that as a freedom movement, SWAPO still enjoys the support of the majority of Namibians.
- 2) Unless SWAPO supporters are brought into Namibia's social, economic and political decision-making, the war will continue; and
- 3) In order to satisfy the Blacks' ambitions, more than superficial changes have to be made. Fundamental changes must be brought about.

Referring to Namibia's economic position, he said:

- 1) In contrast to Namibia's population of 1.3 million, the country has a relatively large territory, even though one takes the desert regions into consideration.
- 2) With such a small population, Third-World problems such as unemployment, urbanization, lack of sanitation, etc. are more easily manageable.
- 3) In the light of the country's small population, considerations such as the tourist potential of the land, its hydroelectric possibilities and its fishing industry are of great importance.
- 4) The physical infrastructure of South-West Africa/Namibia is much more highly developed than that of most African nations.
- 5) The proximity of South Africa with its sophisticated services is a great asset.
- 6) Because of the country's climate and accessibility, Windhoek can easily become Africa's most sought-after conference center.
- 7) Despite the severe drought and economic recession, the country's debt is not nearly as great as that of other African nations.

Prof Thomas said that an internal government endeavoring to secure long-term success must follow a policy and strategy akin to that of a moderate SWAPO government.

The real choices for South-West Africa/Namibia lie between superficial changes in the present racial discrimination system and aggressive reform aimed at building bridges between SWAPO and non-SWAPO supporters, in order by so doing to procure ultimate reconciliation, which will pave the way to recognized independence.

Some such changes that the transitional government must bring about are:

- 1) The opening up of the Windhoek college of education to all races in order thus to lay the foundation for a university of South-West Africa/Namibia.
- 2) The elimination of certain restrictions that now obtain in multiracial sport programs and other public activities.
- 3) The coalition of Windhoek, Khomasdal and Katutura in a multiracial urban council.

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CSO: 3401/185

NIGERIA

BRIEFS

EDICT ON RELIGIOUS PREACHING--The Bauchi State Government has enacted an edict regulating religious preaching. Known as the Religious Preaching Edict, 1985, the edict stipulates the status of religious preachers and the conditions for their operation. It makes it compulsory for all registered religious preachers to obtain licenses from Christian and Islamic bodies or permits from sole administrators of where they want to preach. Under the edict, it is an offense for all preachers to play religious cassettes or use electronic equipment in a manner that constitutes public nuisance or indicates contempt for other religious denominations. The offense attracts a fine or 6 months imprisonment or both. [Text] [Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Jul 85 AB]

LARGE WORKER TURNOUT--In Niger State, an attendance register has been opened in all government establishments to identify civil servants who join in the strike by the NLC [Nigeria Labor Congress]. Our staff correspondent in Minna reports that at the end of the working hours today, the total number of absentees were not known. However, a government statement said the turnout was large and commended the workers. It said the workers' action has portrayed them as responsible citizens ready to make sacrifices for the development of the state. The governor had earlier warned that workers who participate in the strike should regard themselves dismissed. The NLC is demanding the restoration of the workers' allowances after the expiration of the 6 months given by the government. However, Governor David Mark said the allowances would not be restored until January due to the government's finances. [Text] [Lagos Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Jul 85]

COUP IN UGANDA -- The overthrow of former President Milton Obote of Uganda is discussed by the DAILY TIMES. The paper observes that during his tenure of office, the deposed Ugandan president fanned the embers of tribalism in a bid to stay perpetually in power. It points out that the people may, however, have a consolation in the belief that the new leadership of General Tito Okello may reverse the fortunes of their country for good by avoiding the pitfalls of his predecessors. The TIMES enjoins all Ugandans to cooperate with the new government in order to restore peace in that country. [From the press review] [Text] [Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Aug 85 AB]

THREAT TO REPATRIATE BLACKS -- The recent threat by apartheid South Africa to repatriate 1 million blacks is the issue examined by THE VANGUARD. It believes that the repatriation will have more adverse effects on the racist economy than it will have on the Frontline countries. The paper is of the view that the brand of reaction is being borne by France alone since the imposition of the state of emergency in black townships. THE VANGUARD, therefore, calls on African countries to initiate, as a matter of urgency, a survival contingency plan for the Frontline countries. [From the press review] [Text] [Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Aug 85 AB]

CSO: 3400/802

REUNION

BRIEFS

ANTI-COMMUNISTS MOVE IN--Jean-Paul VIRAPOULLE, vice-chairman of Reunion's governing council and mayor of Saint Andre, played host on June 28 to Bernard T.K. JOEI, a roving ambassador for the government of Taiwan, and Monaf FAKIRA of Mauritius, secretary-general of the African Organisation for Freedom (AOF), which is affiliated to the World Anti-Communist League (WACL). Their talks centred on the idea of starting a branch of the WACL in Reunion. Gaetan DUVAL, deputy prime minister of Mauritius, who was also expected at the meeting, cancelled his trip at the last minute. I.O.N.--Bernard JOEI, a member of the WACL's executive committee, is an Africa specialist. For 15 years he was Taiwan's ambassador in Ivory Coast. He stayed only one day in Reunion before going on to Mauritius, the headquarters of the AOF, and South Africa. Jean-Paul VIRAPOULLE has had close links for many years with Gaetan DUVAL, who is a friend of both Taiwan and South Africa and in December 1980 set up a short-lived Indian Ocean anti-communist front with Jean-Marie LE PEN and Alix MOREL, respectively the overall head and Reunion leader of France's extreme-right Front National. Mr VIRAPOULLE explains his activities as a reaction to those of Paul VERGES, secretary-general of Reunion's communist party. "Reunion is the island most threatened by the world communist league. For every poison, there must be a counter-poison", he told THE INDIAN OCEAN NEWSLETTER. [Text] [Paris THE INDIAN OCEAN NEWSLETTER in English 6 Jul 85 p 6]

CANE CUTTING DELAYER--Reunion sugar farmers fighting for more than the four per cent increase in the price the government said it would pay for their cane decided not to start the harvesting which normally begins on June 15 in some areas. Their unions, the FDSEA, CGPER, CDJA and USA, were demanding an increase of between eight and ten per cent. However, a decision by the authorities to pay a bonus of 35 francs per tonne instead of 27 to producers of less than 500 tonnes mollified them somewhat, and minister for overseas territories Georges LEMOINE, arriving in Reunion on July 1 as the boycott on harvesting was in fully swing, did not have to face complaining planters as some observers had predicted. Instead, the sugar growers returned to their fields on July 2. The feeble resistance of the CGPER and the local communist party, the PCR, to the government measures, caused surprise. Party secretary-general Paul VERGES, a member of the European parliament, had said the sugar price increase would be "a test of the government's determination to bring about change in Reunion". The price paid for the first 500 tonnes of cane is now 314.21 francs per tonne. [Text] [Paris THE INDIAN OCEAN NEWSLETTER in English 6 Jul 85 p 8]

VANILLA SALES DRIVE--Paul Moreau, director of Reunion's vanilla producers' cooperative whose output last year totalled 152.6 tonnes of raw vanilla, has admitted that too high a selling price for natural vanilla is leading purchasers of the product to fall back on vanillin as a substitute. European buyers paying in dollars have suffered an effective rise in costs of between 23 and 25 percent, and not 12 percent, as a result of the fixing of the vanilla price at 70 dollars per kilo by the producer countries of the Indian Ocean in March 1984. Without wanting to talk of a price cut, Mr Moreau is looking for a formula which would keep the real price rise at 12 percent for European customers. He intends to launch a promotional campaign in France for Bourbon vanilla, the type produced in the Indian Ocean and especially that coming from Reunion, which was once known as Bourbon Island. The cooperative's director has also criticised alleged erosion of the price agreement by Madagascar, which he accuses of selling 20-30 tonnes of vanilla on the German market at below the 70 dollar mark. [Text] [Paris THE INDIAN OCEAN NEWSLETTER in English 13 Jul 85 p 6]

CSO: 3400/759

SEYCHELLES

BEL OMBRE COASTAL IMPROVEMENTS REPORTED

Victoria NATION in English 11 Jul 85 pp 1, 2

[Text]

A SEA wall being built to protect the coastline and the main road between the Bel Ombre market and the Corsaire restaurant will eventually bring much more benefit than originally imagined, Transport officials said yesterday.

The 70-metre-long wall of granite rocks and cement will not only prevent erosion, but will also allow an area of about 800 square metres to be reclaimed and filled in. This will provide space for different facilities that will benefit both district inhabitants and Corsaire patrons, and help the Seychelles Marketing Board provide better services to both the public and Bel Ombre fishermen.

Bel Ombre is a fishing village protected from the sea, like so many others along the Mahe coastline, a by a fringing reef. Several months ago part of this reef was cleared to form a safe, coral-free channel for the fishermen.

However, this also let in large waves that used to break on the reef. These seriously eroded the small beach between the market and the Corsaire where most of the

fishermen pulled up their boats and where the main road bordered on the seashore.

The Special Projects Unit started work on the sea wall three weeks ago and will take another six weeks to finish. The project is costing around R100,000 and is being built under the technical supervision of the Department of Transport.

The wall will have a concrete slipway to allow fishermen to pull their boats out of the water and onto a storage area which will be provided. One side of the slipway will be fitted with concrete-filled PVC sliders so that fibreglass boats, which are popular among Bel Ombre fishermen, can be pulled up or launched without being damaged underneath. A winch will be installed to pull up the larger boats.

The builders also hope that the slipway will serve as a groyne to help trap sand along the wall and form a beach.

Parking space

A transport spokesman said yesterday that the area between the wall and the main road would be filled in and that

the part next to the Corsaire, which is undergoing extensive renovation, would provide parking space for restaurant patrons. The Compagnie Seychelloise de Promotion Hotelière (COSPROH), which will manage the Corsaire, is therefore contributing towards the cost of the sea wall.

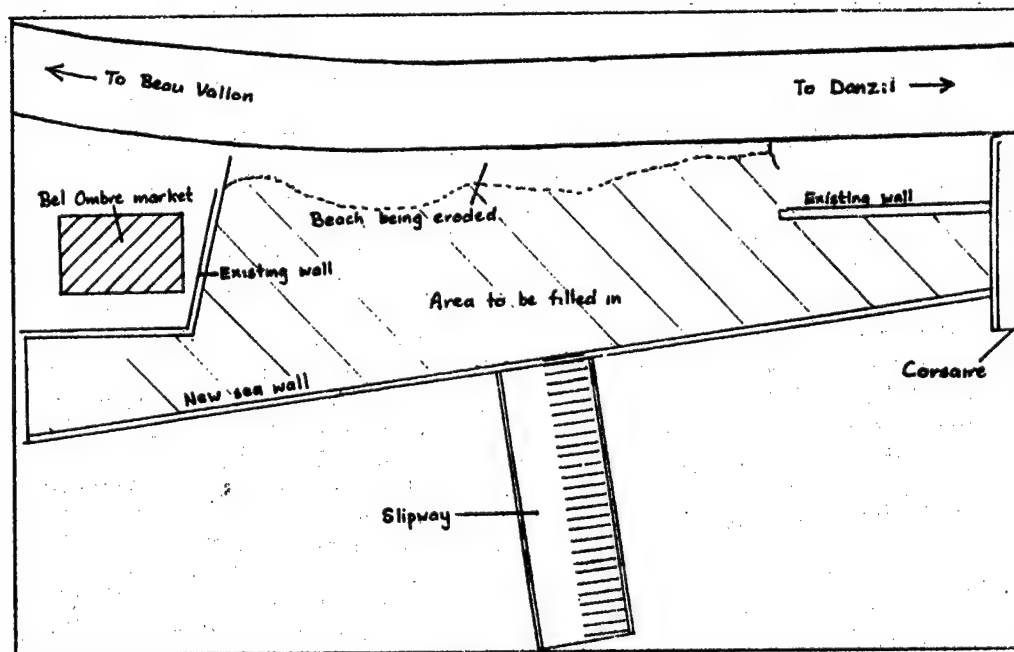
But of much more interest and benefit to Bel Ombre inhabitants will be a collection centre to be built by the Seychelles Marketing Board's Fish Division, which is also helping to pay for the sea wall.

The Division is to build nine fish collection centres around Mahe, two on Praslin and another on La Digue. District-based fishermen will sell their catches to the SMB at these centres. The fish will be gutted and cleaned before being sent in refrigerated lorries to a central unit now being built at the fishing port in Victoria.

The centres will provide fishermen with such necessities as ice and bait, allowing them to concentrate all their efforts on fishing.

The main objectives and functions of the Fish Division of the SMB include organising

the efficient collection and distribution of fish of a high quality, as well as ensuring a constant and regular supply of fish for the local market at reasonable prices and a reasonable income for fishermen.



A diagram of the project.

CSO: 3400/737

SEYCHELLES

FISHING PORT IMPROVEMENTS REPORTED

Victoria NATION in English 12 Jul 85 p 2

[Text]

THERE is plenty of evidence that Seychelles is getting more and more serious in its effort to develop fishing as one of its main industries.

On La Digue, the Government has invested in a modern boatyard which is building a new generation of comfortable demersal fishing boats.

On Mahé, Port Victoria; is being equipped with ice-making plants, cold storage facilities, processing factories and other utilities that will form the new infrastructures needed to back the exploitation of Seychelles' most abundant natural resource, fish. Soon the Seychelles Marketing Board

(SMB) will join in by setting up collection centres around the islands, so that fishermen will be able to sell their catches as soon they land and consumers will be able to buy quality fish from the market at reasonable prices. Fish not sold fresh locally will be graded and either stored for periods of scarcity or exported to bring in the precious foreign exchange.

Praslinois craftsmen are also lending a hand in these efforts to develop fishing, especially the traditional sector. A boatyard at Baie Ste Anne (photo) — much smaller in size than the one on La Digue, but run together by Boatbuilders Ltd. — has started constructing a new type of small

fishing boat for fisherman going out on a day's expedition.

The boatyard is not in full production yet, although it has already built several boats of between six and twelve metres long. Its production target is to build a dozen of these a year.

With the latest in carpentry machines now installed at the boatyard, Praslinois craftsmen, like their Diguois colleagues, hope to turn out boats that are more comfortable, faster, safer and can go further out to sea.

The construction of the Praslin boatyard has been described as an "extremely important investment" in the islands' efforts to develop the fishing industry to its utmost.

CSO: 3400/737

SEYCHELLES

DETAILS ON LA GOGUE DAM GIVEN

Victoria NATION in English 28 Jun 85 p 2

[Text]

SOME 20 members of the new Institution of Engineers of Seychelles (IES) were yesterday afternoon taken on a guided tour of the country's largest dam at La Gogue.

In what was the first outing organised by the IES since it was formed last March, the engineers were explained the workings of the dam by no other than the chairman of the institution himself, Mr Stephen Rousseau, who also happens to be the Engineer/Manager of the Seychelles Water Authority.

Other top engineers from the Ministry of Planning and External Relations and Works Enterprises Ltd talked about how the dam, which in technical terms is made up of a zoned embankment with a rolled clay-filled core, was built in 1976-79.

Designed so that it can be raised if necessary, the dam stands 33 metres above its foundations and is 152 metres

long. A total of 280,000 cubic metres of earth and rock were used to build the retaining embankment. The dam can store up to 970,000 cubic metres of water covering an area of 9.3 hectares.

Water from the dam is fed to the public through the Hermitage Treatment Works which also serve the smaller Rochon Dam which was finished in 1969.

The IES group on yesterday's visit included Seychellois and foreign water, electricity, vehicle, construction, aircraft, broadcasting and other engineers.

As well as organising visits to engineering works, the IES also holds lectures on both past and future technical projects.

The objectives of the IES are to promote the engineering profession in Seychelles, help train engineers and technicians, set standards of profes-

sional conduct in engineering, disseminate information related to the profession, and advise the education authorities in matters concerning engineering training.

CSO: 3400/737

SEYCHELLES

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME RISE REPORTED

Victoria NATION in English 5 Jul 85 pp 1, 2

[Text]

EMPLOYMENT and incomes rose while unemployment and inflation tumbled in Seychelles last year as, after three years of economic stagnation, 1984 showed strong indications of growth.

The latest annual report of the Central Bank just out notes that the number of people in formal employment (i.e. not including domestic workers, the self-employed and family workers) increased by three percent while the number looking for jobs through the Labour Office fell by 8.7 percent.

Between 1983 and 1984, the average earnings of a Seychellois worker rose by 1.1 percent and reached R1,983 per month.

As the price performance continued to improve strongly, the rate of inflation fell from 6.6 percent in 1983 to just 1.2 percent in 1984. On an annual average, price inflation in 1984 was four percent as against 6.1 percent the year before.

Looking at the economy in general, the Central Bank states: "Led by the resurgence of tourism since the closing months of 1983, economic recovery gained momentum

throughout the year under report. While tourism-related sectors benefited, the recovery has yet to become broad-based, partly because of the time lag in transmission of tourism recovery to other sectors and partly because of the slow growth in investments."

"Tourism performed extraordinarily well during 1984," the Bank notes, and direct spending by tourists in Seychelles brought in R 279 million in 1984, more than 53 percent of the total foreign exchange received by the banks during the year.

Yet, tourism was seriously threatened after two international airlines pulled out their European routes to Seychelles in March/April 1983. The Government rescued the industry from potential collapse by taking a bold and calculated step to launch an international air service with a leased aircraft under the auspices of its own hitherto domestic airline, Air Seychelles.

"The important lesson underscored by this experience is that international access transport, which is vital to the tourism industry and hence to

the national economy, should not be left entirely to the narrow commercial considerations of foreign airlines," the Central Bank states.

Subsidy

For a small country operating an international air service with a leased aircraft, it notes, it might be inevitable that there will be losses calling for some subsidy from the government. But this subsidy, if any, can be justified by the benefits, in terms of jobs and incomes and also foreign exchange earnings, which the revival of tourism brings to the country, the Central Bank adds.

Nevertheless, as a matter of prudence, the Government is believed to be periodically assessing Air Seychelles' international operations financially, so as to minimise or eliminate losses.

Traditionally, the services sectors, dominated by tourism-related services, have provided the engine for growth, contributing no less than 75 percent to the gross domestic product. Non-services sectors, engaged mostly in producing commodities, account for the remaining quarter. The indications are that roughly the same

pattern prevailed in 1984, the Central Bank report says.

Production showed fairly mixed trends but because of a lack of comprehensive data, it is difficult to determine whether output actually increased or fell. But if deliveries to the New Port warehouse provide a fair estimate of production, copra production fell whereas that of cinnamon bark increased. Production of tea received a severe set-back during 1984 after the crop was infested by pests, but fruits and vegetables appeared to have had a good year.

The fish landed appeared to have declined marginally and the number of cattle and pigs slaughtered also fell. On the other hand, although comparative figures for 1983 were not available, the production of poultry reached full self-sufficiency.

Available information showed similar mixed trends in the manufacturing sector also. For example, the manufacture of soft drinks and beverages declined marginally during 1984 whereas that of juices and preserves by the National Agro-Industries Ltd (NAIL), now the Agro-Industries Division of the Seychelles Marketing Board (SMB), showed improved results. The manufacture of cigarettes received a substantial boost from a sharp fall in imports of foreign brands.

Construction

Considering that about two-thirds of the increase in employment between June 1983 and June 1984 was in the mining and construction sector, the Central Bank assumes that construction activity picked up pace last year.

However, the power output did not complement the revival

of economic activity. Electricity production fell marginally under the influence of the cooler weather that prevailed generally during 1984.

Developments in the financial sector were largely influenced by the increasing demands on domestic financial resources by the Government and the parastatals in comparison to the previous year, in the sense that there was better revenue performance, and a smaller recurrent deficit of R 38 million.

Total domestic credit by the banking system rose to an all-time high of R 388.5 million in September, but declined to R 373.8 million in December, the major beneficiaries being the Government and the parastatals. Bank credit to the private sector has been sliding downwards since 1981 and amounted to only R 122.3 million or about 32.7 percent of total domestic credit at the end of 1984.

Wholesale and retail trade accounted for over half the total commercial bank credit in 1984 and together with advances to what the report describes as Other Businesses and Private Households, etc, consumption-oriented bank credit seized a commanding share of about 72 percent of total bank credit.

Productive sectors such as agriculture, fishing and manufacturing enjoyed fairly insignificant shares on the other hand. The Central Bank therefore concludes on this issue that "the situation points to the need for major Government initiatives to promote greater activity in these productive sectors, supported by regulatory measures by the Central Bank to divert greater flow of bank credit to these sectors".

An encouraging development in the financial sector, the Central Bank notes, has been

the willingness of the public to hold more financial assets, as shown by a continuing increase in bank deposits, especially in time deposits. These reached a record R 299.4 million at the end of 1984.

But the growth of savings deposits has been weak in comparison to that of time deposits and the Central Bank believes that a nationwide savings campaign may well be overdue.

In the external sector, a favourable development has been the reduction in the current account deficit to less than half of that in 1983, influenced, the Central Bank says, by substantial receipts from tourism. However, this was mostly offset by an almost corresponding deterioration in the capital account.

Overall, 1984 closed with a small balance of payments surplus of R 3.4 million, breaking a three-year trend of annual deficits since 1981.

But a disquieting aspect of the external account is the falling value of domestic exports since 1981 which, after dropping to the lowest level of R20.3 million in 1982, recorded yet another low point of R21.9 million in 1984.

"If it is accepted that tourism is a fickle industry, the best hedge against the vagaries of tourism income is to pay far greater attention than hitherto to the promotion of Seychelles' merchandise exports," the Central Bank stresses.

SEYCHELLES

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROJECT DESCRIBED

Victoria NATION in English 24 Jun 85 pp 1, 2

[Text]

A SPECIAL programme that will provide up to 1,500 youths a year with between one and four years' work experience before formal full employment is to be introduced by the Government soon.

The Work Experience Programme was explained to the chairmen and social affairs officials of the Seychelles People's Progressive Front's (SPPF) district branches and government, parastatal and private employers by Labour and Social Security Minister Joseph Belmont at the Maison du Peuple last Thursday. It was aimed, he said, at helping young people of the 15 to 21-year age group who were not at the NYS or the Polytechnic. However, the WEP was not intended as an alternative to further studies at these establishments.

"This programme," Mr Belmont, who is also the Secretary for Social Affairs on the SPPF Central Committee, said, "has been drawn up in

keeping with the policy of the Front and of the Government to continually give Seychellois youth more and more opportunities to participate in productivity and contribute to national development." In this particular case, it would also provide them with the experience they needed to prepare them for the world of work.

But the Government's efforts naturally did not end there, Mr Belmont said. "It will continue with its aim of creating, through the new National Development Plan, full-time jobs for everyone, though this is, of course, a more long term-objective," the Minister said.

Contribution

"In the meantime, the Work Experience Programme will ensure that youths who enter full employment are in a position to contribute more effectively in helping to raise the country's level of productivity."

The Programme is for youths who have completed Primary 9 but who did not join the NYS or who dropped out of the

Service; NYS graduates who were not admitted to the Polytechnic or who dropped out during their first year; and youths who have completed only their first year at the Polytechnic.

Youths who are already employed but who would have otherwise fallen into this category will continue to work and be paid as they are.

The Programme has five main objectives. It will help provide basic training and prepare youths for the world of work, and thus make it easier for them to find employment later on. Minister Belmont noted that nowadays, employers very often turned away young people because they lacked experience. This was especially so if the person had not gone on to more advanced studies after Primary 9 or the National Youth Service (NYS).

The programme will also ensure that trained and experienced workers are rewarded at a higher level than youngsters who are employed.

for the first time, and that those young people who have the potential for further training are not discouraged from developing this by the attraction of a high salary as soon as they start work.

Finally, but just as important as the other objectives, the Programme will contribute to increased productivity.

It must be pointed out here that the WEP is not an alternative to further studies at the Polytechnic. Whatever on-the-job training will be provided under the Programme will not be up to the standard of that provided by the Polytechnic.

"If you want, this Programme will, for example, train a youth to become a carpenter's assistant but not a fully-fledged carpenter," Mr Belmont said by way of illustration. "The properly qualified carpenter is being trained at the Polytechnic," he added. "We are talking here more about gaining experience in work rather than training."

It is expected that a maximum of 700 youths will join the Programme each year. Bearing in mind the period of employment for each person on the Programme, it is expected that there could be up to 1,500 youths employed at any point in time.

However, at the beginning this figure will be even higher because there are a number of young people who have not continued their education during the last few years, who are unemployed and under 21 and who would therefore qualify to participate.

All employers will be encouraged to employ youths under this Programme, giving them, as much as possible,

work experience in fields where they could be permanently employed later on.

However, youths on the Programme should not fill jobs which would normally have been occupied by fully-fledged workers and should not undertake any work where people are paid according to their productivity.

To make sure that no-one takes advantage of the Programme to employ cheap labour in the place of fully paid workers, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security will set a quota of WEP employees for each employer, Mr Belmont assured last Thursday's meeting. This week the Ministry is expected to start a survey of vacancies available with all employers in preparation for the Programme.

Everyone employed under the Programme will have to complete a set period of work experience before he can be fully and formally employed. The only exception is if a youth reaches 21 before finishing his work experience. In this case he can be fully employed. The work experience period may, however, be spent with more than one employer and/or in more than one field of employment.

The period of employment under the Programme will vary depending on the education level of those joining. Where a person leaves the NYS or the Polytechnic before completing an academic year, the part of that year he has spent studying will not be counted in determining his education level.

Four years experience

A P9 leaver will have to undergo four years of work ex-

perience before he can be fully employed. An NYS student who has completed one year will have to do three years, an NYS graduate two years, and a Polytechnic student who has completed one year of studies will have to do one year of work experience. This means that the average age of youths who finish the Programme will be 19, a year over the age of maturity.

During this period wages will also reflect the education level, but will bear no relationship to the type of work being undertaken.

A P9 leaver will get R400 a month, an NYS student who has completed one year R450, an NYS graduate R600, and a Polytechnic student who has finished one year R700 a month. The youths will also receive a monthly increment of R50 for each year they complete on the Programme.

These wages will be liable to tax and social security deductions. "It is an important aspect of social education that as soon as someone starts working and earning an income, he should also take up his responsibility to help care for those who cannot work," Mr Belmont said.

Youths on the programme will be entitled to all other employment benefits such as 21 days leave. They will also be provided with free transport by employers, but only if they live more than five kilometres from where they work. Employers will be encouraged to recruit youths in their districts or regions.

Youths on the Work Experience Programme are also covered by all employment legislation, rules and procedures.

Employers will be encouraged to employ, as fully-

fledged workers, any youths who complete their work experience with them or who reach the age of 21 during their work experience.

However, if it is not possible for the employer to do this, he will be able to terminate the employment of the youths who have completed their programme subject to notice. This termination will not be subject to review.

The Programme will be administered mainly by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, in close collaboration with the President's Office for the civil service and parastatal sector, the Federation of Employers Associations for the private sector and the National Workers Union.

All vacancies under the Programme will have to be registered at the Employment Centre and everyone working under the Programme will also have to register. They will be referred to vacancies in the same manner as other job seekers.

It should be noted that the introduction of the Work Ex-

perience Programme will not preclude employers from taking on trainees on an approved in-service training scheme, though such trainees should normally join at post-Polytechnic level.

With the introduction of the Programme, the Community Service Project, whereby NYS graduates are given an allowance for work in their community, will be phased out as project participants find jobs under the WEP. Those NYS graduates who have completed one year on the Community Service Project will be able, at

the discretion of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, to have their period of employment under the Programme reduced from two years to one year.

Under special circumstances, and again at the discretion of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, it will also be possible for youths with less than P9 education to join the Programme. Those above 21 years might also be able to continue on the Programme if they have not completed its set period of employment.

CSO: 3400/737

SEYCHELLES

BRIEFS

PIONEERS IN BULGARIA--Two Pioneers and a Youth Instructor left Seychelles yesterday evening for the third International Children's Assembly in Sofia, Bulgaria. Mervyn Camille of Plaisance School and Lena Dubignon of Cascade School, both 15-year-old P9 pupils, are accompanied by Miss Marie-Alice Julie of the Ministry of Youth and Defence. The "Banner of Peace" assembly opened on Tuesday and will continue until July 20. Its theme is Unity, Creative Work, World Peace and Cooperation among Nations. The delegation is taking along with them Seychellois craftwork, including embroidery, woodwork, hats, baskets and paintings. They are also taking along a bell to be presented, on behalf of the children of Seychelles, to a permanent exhibition of the "Banner of Peace". The exhibition has received bells from 60 countries so far. [Text] [Victoria NATION in English 12 Jul 85 pp 1, 2]

TOURISM FIGURES--With the latest visitor arrival figures showing an 18 per cent increase on last year by June 16, Seychelles remains on target with its objective of enticing 75,000 tourists--which would be the second highest number of these islands yet--to its shores this year. Of the 33,232 visitors who had landed in Seychelles by June 16, no less than three quarters came from Europe. France alone provided 18 per cent of all the visitors, followed closely by Italy with 17 per cent, and then by West Germany, the United Kingdom and Eire, Switzerland, Japan and Reunion. Europe registered a 28 per cent increase on the same period last year with Italy, France, West Germany and Japan chalking up 85, 22, 21 and 18 per cent rises respectively. There were 186 per cent or nearly three times more visitors from as far afield as Scandinavia. Between January and May visitors stayed an average of 10.9 nights in Seychelles, slightly down on 11 nights in the same period last year. Still, there was a net increase of 17 per cent in the number of visitor nights spent in Seychelles. Hotel occupancy rates for January to April stood at 66 per cent for beds and 72 per cent for rooms, increases of six per cent in both instances. [Text] [Victoria NATION in English 22 Jun 85 p 2]

MOSCOW FILM FESTIVAL--Radio-Television Seychelles will be represented at the 14th International Film Festival that opens in Moscow tomorrow by Mr Ibrahim Afif, the Controller of RTS Television. The two-week festival, which will include feature films and documentaries from all over the world, is held every two years. The festival is also a market, enabling participants to exchange, sell or buy films. [Text] [Victoria NATION in English 28 Jun 85 p 2]

POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS--Over 1,000 second year students of the National Youth Service (NYS) start four days of familiarisation visits to the Seychelles Polytechnic today, in preparation for further studies there should they be accepted to the establishment next year. The visits will also make it easier for the NYS students to choose which Polytechnic department they wish to apply to. During the "Day on Campus", as the visit are called, NYS boys and girls from the the Agriculture and Maritime Studies, Art and Social Studies, Construction and Engineering, and Science channels will visit their corresponding departments at the Polytechnic's Anse Royale and Mont Fleuri campuses. Under the NYS education programme, all the students spend their first year studying a broad and general range of subjects. In the second and final year, from which they will either go on to further studies at the Polytechnic or, especially in the case of the General Studies Channel, the world of work, the students enter into one of the five channels mentioned. Their entry is based on their interests, their performance in the first year, and the number of places available in the channels. Each channel prepares the students either for work or for specific courses at the Polytechnica. [Text] [Victoria NATION in English 1 Jul 85 p 1]

CSO: 3400/638

SIERRA LEONE

BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH IRAN--A memorandum of understanding was signed in Tehran early in May on cooperation in trade, technical services, oil and mining: on technical aid for Lierra Leone, the import of bauxite from that country for the Arak aluminium works, and exchanges of delegations. [Text] [Paris AFRICAN DEFENCE in English Jul 85 p 9]

CSO: 3400/744

SOMALIA

FRAGMENTATION OF OPPOSITION MOVEMENTS REPORTED

London AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL in English 3 Jul 85 p 8

[Text]

The Somali government is pursuing a diplomatic campaign to cut off foreign support for the two main opposition movements, the *Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia* (DFSS) and the *Somali National Movement* (SNM).

The campaign has coincided with the departure from the DFSS of moderates, opposed to the left-wing, composed of leaders of the former *Somali Workers Party* (SWP) and the former *Somali Democratic Labour Party*. Led by a former SWP leader, **Said Jama**, the moderates' new movement, the *Somali Patriotic Liberation Front* (SPLF), will probably be based in Aden, **South Yemen**.

The rump of the DFSS, under the leadership of the authoritarian Col. **Abdullahi Yusuf**, is under added pressure following the re-establishment in April of diplomatic relations between Somalia and **Libya**. The latter might provide some finance for reactivating joint projects, notably the **Libsoma** agricultural scheme. Col. **Gadaffi** will probably visit Mogadishu before long, perhaps on his way to another flying visit to Mecca. More important, the Somali government believes, with some justification, that **Libya** will stick to its agreement to stop supporting the DFSS and SNM. Certainly Col. **Abdullahi Yusuf's** visit to Tripoli in April yielded nothing substantial.

The Somali minister of information, Col. **Omar Jess**, visited **Egypt** to reassure the government there that the rapprochement with **Libya** was purely pragmatic. A Somali delegation is expected to visit **Syria** in the near future — the DFSS has an office there — and the **South Yemeni** foreign minister has an invitation to visit Mogadishu. (The first tentative date for his visit has been postponed). **South Yemen**, which is a member with **Libya** of the tripartite defence pact with **Ethiopia**, has until now supported in varying degrees all anti-Somali government opposition movements. The permanent secretary in the Somali ministry of foreign affairs, **Ahmed Mohammed Adam**, paid a discreet visit to **Moscow** in May. Though Somali president **Siad Barre** has no intention of rejoining the **Soviet** camp, he clearly wants **Moscow** to drop support for the remnants of the Somali opposition and give its backing to opening up negotiations between **Addis Ababa** and **Mogadishu** ●

CSO: 3400/712

SOUTH AFRICA

BEELD URGES GESTURE IN SUPPORT OF REAGAN

MB191000 Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans 15 Jul 85 p 10

[Text] Probably the greatest truth about the sanctions legislation passed by the American Congress against South Africa last week was pointed out by Senator Nancy Kassebaum. "Sanctions", she said, "would place America on a path the results of which cannot be determined beforehand".

What a pity that her 80 fellow senators who voted for economic sanctions did not have the same insight. On the other hand: South Africa should be grateful to the White House, which once again had the courage to declare that it is opposed to such measures.

It could not have been easy to say so in the face of such an overwhelming vote in the Congress, even though some of the more severe aspects passed by the House of Representatives were not accepted by the Senate.

So American's constructive engagement towards South Africa survives, but one would be unrealistic not to heed the warning lights now flashing brightly.

In the past year relations between this country and the United States have deteriorated to the extent where the American ambassador was recalled for "consultation"--the kind of action a country normally takes only under the severest provocation. Only the participants in the infighting can tell exactly when things began to go awry. Those who know the Americans know that they are sometimes inclined to take over the reigns even in cases where one only needs their support. But then, South African actions in Langa (Uitenhage), Cabinda, and Gaborone could have caused so many diplomatic repercussions that the Reagan administration must have asked itself just how much can really be achieved through constructive agreement.

Perhaps the time has come for South Africa to show by some major gesture that it really appreciates this engagement. We certainly owe it to President Reagan to help him to help us. And clearly time is running out for such a gesture.

CSO: 3400/733

SOUTH AFRICA

UDF CONDEMNED FOR ITS ACTION AGAINST NEW ZEALAND RUGBY TEAM

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 18 Jul 85 p 6

[Text]

SOUTH AFRICANS are shocked at the abandonment of the All Blacks rugby tour.

Not just because it is a blow to our efforts to maintain the sporting contacts that remain open to us, but because it is completely outrageous that the New Zealand Rugby Football Union should be interdicted from sending a team here.

More than that, one of the most telling reasons for the court injunction was the evidence given by the Rev Arnold Stofile, an executive member of the United Democratic Front, who told the court that "our people" would be killed and injured when they demonstrated against the team in South Africa.

The UDF has done this country tremendous harm, from the time that it exploited the Durban consulate sit-in to its most recent claim that the "system" had been responsible for the death of four UDF leaders in the Eastern Cape — an insinuation that was taken up abroad as confirmation that the South African Government is killing off its opponents, which is a heinous and false suggestion.

The UDF, according to the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, has been behind much of the unrest in recent months. And there is no doubt that some elements in the UDF have links with the African National Congress, which is determined to drive police, councillors and officials from the townships so that the radicals can take over. How long the Government will tolerate the activities of the UDF remains to be seen, but if action is taken against it, it will only have itself to blame.

That aside, we can see no sense in the court injunction, which was an unwarranted interference in the decision of a validly constituted and autonomous sports body.

We do not know whether the New Zealand public realises that if a court can stop a team from touring, even only by an interim injunction before the case itself is decided, the lamps of individual liberty in New Zealand are dimmed.

Today the anti-apartheid mob can get its way, tomorrow it can be some other bunch of crackpots who by demonstrations and threats can create a situation that will convince a court that a valid decision taken by a sports body or other organisation should be blocked.

We hope New Zealanders will also realise that what has happened is a gross interference with their right to play sport where they wish and against whom they wish, and that it is their Government, with its vile campaign against the tour, that is mainly responsible.

As for South African rugby players, they can only express their dismay at the turn of events. For it has always been one of the great ambitions of South African players to wear the green and gold against the All Blacks.

The disappointment is all the more acute because the tour seemed to have been cut and dried, with 30 players selected for the touring side and trials held in Cape Town to choose the Springbok team.

Nevertheless, though we share the dismay of players and we express our contempt for those responsible for the abandonment of the tour, we caution South Africans not to make this a cause for national dependency.

There is more to life than sport. We have more pertinent and insistent problems than whether or not the All Blacks tour our country. The cancellation of the tour is not a national disaster. It is also not the end of rugby. But there are lessons to be learnt from the debacle — and the first one is that we cannot allow the UDF to steal a march on us by its devious tricks.

We have to fight with even greater vigour — and certainly with a cunning to match that of the UDF — to ensure that our remaining sporting links continue and that we expand them wherever possible.

If, in the end, the rugby world turns its back on us, then we will have to organise rebel rugby tours like the cricketers have done.

Even if it means that rugby has to go professional.

SOUTH AFRICA

LABOUR PARTY HELPING GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENT APARTHEID

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 18 Jul 85 p 13

[Article by Brian Stuart, Political Correspondent]

[Text]

CAPE TOWN. — The Progressive Federal Party has criticised the Labour Party, the majority Coloured party in the House of Representatives, for supporting the Government in implementing apartheid at local government level.

It has suggested the LP might be co-operating in apartheid in order to entrench its position within the Coloured community.

A report drawn up by the PFP's research department is highly critical of LP support for the Government's 1985 Local Government Affairs Amendment Bill, in terms of which powers and assets may be transferred from existing local authorities to Coloured and Indian management committees.

The PFP report said: "The politically cynical mind would be tempted to deduce from these arrangements that the Government and the LP are co-operating closely to implement the Government's apartheid policy, and — considering the

immense amount of patronage at LP disposal once it effectively controls Coloured housing — to strengthen and entrench the LP in Coloured politics."

This Bill was one of 19 listed in the report as opposed by the PFP at the first session of the tricameral parliament but not opposed by the Labour Party or the National People's Party, the majority Indian Party in the House of Delegates.

"It would thus appear that the majority parties in these two houses went out of their way not to oppose legislation introduced by the Government, or to embarrass the Government.

"This is obviously an implication of the presence of the Rev Allan Hendrickse (LP leader) and Mr Amichand Rajbansi (NPP leader) in the Cabinet.

"In this respect they must be seen as part of Government and not as part of opposition."

The appointment by the State President, Mr P

W Botha, of a Deputy Minister from each of the LP and the NPP would further strengthen the interdependence between the National Party, LP and NPP and could lead to a greater desire by the other two parties to support the Government.

Dealing with legislation to end the Provincial Council system at the second tier of government and to create Regional Services Councils, the report said it was clear that local authorities, as they existed today, would undergo drastic changes.

"The establishment of regional services councils will undoubtedly emasculate existing local government bodies, particularly those in the metropolitan and other major urban centres.

"At the same time it will enable the Government to implement its stated policy of racially separate local authorities far more easily. Legislation adopted this year and in the last few years provides the framework to achieve this end.

"These changes have been presented as an attempt to 'bring local government nearer to the people' as evidence of the Government's resolve to decentralise and to devolve powers and functions. The opposite seems to be nearer the truth.

"Local government in the new scheme of things seems to be further removed from the people and what is taking place seems to be a greater diversification of functions and functionaries, but in fact a far greater degree of centralisation of power," the report said.

SOUTH AFRICA

PFP MP ATTACKS BOTHA'S PERSPECTIVE

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 19 Jul 85 p 9

[Text]

THE State President, Mr P W Botha, should tell South Africa of his plans for the future instead of blaming the past for the country's problems, Mr Reuben Sive, the PFP MP for Bezuidenhout, said.

Addressing a report-back meeting in his Johannesburg constituency on Wednesday, he said Mr Botha's comments on the Human Sciences Research Council study of inter-group relations were "puerile".

The report did not attack Afrikaners or English-speaking South Africans, Mr Sive said.

Mr Botha has criticised the report for blaming Afrikaners for the problems of apartheid — he told an Afrikaanse Studentebond Congress this week that apartheid was in existence before the NP came to power.

However, Mr Sive said, the report "merely records that history shows that the Nationalist Party, during its 35 years of power, has elevated apartheid to the detriment of inter-group relations".

"The State President will only make a great contribution when, instead of blaming the past, he tells young South Africa of his actual plans for the future of a better South Africa," Mr Sive said.

He said the PFP was the only party that conformed to the report's requirements for bringing about a South Africa with no domination of one group over another.

His party would put forward candidates for all three Houses of Parlia-

ment in the next General Election and all elected MPs would serve in the same caucus, he said.

The PFP would continue to work within the parliamentary system to bring about change because, despite the "abuse" of that system by the NP it remained the only system that had to be changed to avoid violence in South Africa. — Sapa.

CSO: 3400/718

SOUTH AFRICA

HEAD OF NRP ACCUSES NATIONAL PARTY FOR NATION ALIENATION

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 19 Jul 85 p 13

[Text]

CAPE TOWN. — The National Party government could not evade its responsibility for a political programme that had made South Africa the polecat of the world, the leader of the New Republic Party, Mr Bill Sutton, said yesterday.

In a statement released here, Mr Sutton said the State President, Mr P W Botha, had taken exception earlier this week to the blame heaped on Afrikaners as originators of apartheid.

"Still less can he evade the consequences of the total failure to achieve government objectives as documented in the HSRC report.

"This report closes the debate among Whites about Blacks and opens the door on the debate among Blacks about Whites.

"This debate is now being waged in blood and violence in the Black townships," Mr Sutton said.

South Africa did not need an old and tired Government trying to remedy its mistakes of the past.

"South Africa needs a new Government with reform as its watchword, reaching out to gather moderate leaders of all groups in a consensus of

the centre to plan and build the new Republic."

Mr Sutton said the key to this consensus was a House of Deputies for urban Blacks in the new Parliament.

"Participation by Blacks will give legitimacy to the whole reform programme and encourage moderate Blacks to resist the radicals who are destroying the fabric of urban life," Mr Sutton said. — Sapa.

SOUTH AFRICA

WHITE HOMELAND GETS STRONG SUPPORT FROM RIGHT WING

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 22 Jul 85 p 13

[Article by Brian Stuart]

[Text]

SUPPORT for the creation of a "White homeland" in South Africa is strongest in Conservative Party ranks, but there is also minority support from National Party and Herstigte Nasionale Party members.

This is the finding of an opinion poll conducted by Market and Opinion Surveys (Pty) Ltd for the weekend newspaper Rapport, and published by Rapport yesterday.

About 2 000 people were canvassed and of these 74,5 percent said they were against a White homeland, 15 percent were in favour and 10,5 percent were undecided.

Within the Conservative Party, 50 percent approved the concept and 42 percent were against it,

with eight percent undecided.

According to the survey, there was stronger support for the creation of a White homeland from English-speaking conservatives than from Afrikaners in the conservative ranks.

In the HNP, 32 percent were in favour, 50 percent were opposed and 12 percent undecided.

There was also minority support within NP ranks.

Of those canvassed, 84 percent rejected the concept while the other 16 percent were either in favour or were uncertain.

Among the reasons given for supporting a White homeland were the preservation of the White (20 percent), there must be a place in which apartheid applies (18 percent), it would be safer for Whites, and it would pre-

vent Whites from becoming a "mixed" people.

Of those opposed, 37 percent said the idea was impracticable.

The survey showed that 81 percent of the men canvassed were against the concept as compared with a much lower 68 percent of women.

There was also stronger support from younger people than from the oldest section of those surveyed.

Among Afrikaans-speaking people, 71,6 percent were opposed to a White homeland and 20 percent in favour.

Among English-speaking people canvassed, 78,5 percent rejected the concept and only 7,7 percent were in favour.

More English-speaking people (13,8 percent) were undecided than Afrikaans-speaking people canvassed (8,2 percent).

SOUTH AFRICA

BLACK ROLE IN SOLVING URBANIZATION PROBLEMS CALLED FOR

Johannesburg DIE TRANSVALER in Afrikaans 28 Jun 85 p 11

[Article: "Strategy on Black Urbanization New Challenge"]

[Text] Blacks flocking to the cities represent one of the most difficult issues that will have to be dealt with in the foreseeable future. This is what Professor A. F. Steyn said today at Stellenbosch in a report on urbanization and rural depopulation. The following is a summary of the report.

The issue of the increasing, accelerated urbanization of Blacks is one of the greatest challenges facing us in the last decades of the century, and a strategy is necessary for it that will clearly demand new thinking.

It is quite clear from studies that the policy of influx control will not be adequate in the growing pressure and necessity for Black urbanization. The permanence of Blacks in the city will have to be accepted once and for all.

It is thus of the utmost necessity that one of the highest priorities in South Africa be that of developing a national urbanization strategy--a strategy that clearly demands new thinking.

A move will have to be made away from the idea that Blacks are objects for which provisions have to be made. They will have to be made participants in finding solutions in order to allow urbanization to take place within the framework of orderly development.

In every society, there exists a special bond of symbolic cooperation between city and country, and a delicate balance between these two forms of settlement should be preserved.

When urbanization increases to such a degree that existing services and social structures of the rural population deteriorate to such an extent that the quality of life and perhaps even agricultural production are adversely affected, then the rural populace and society on the whole can face great problems.

When on the other hand there is too little opportunity for urbanization for a rapidly growing population, then large problems with respect to providing services, development and the necessary societal structure, as well as large, scale impoverishment, can also result.

When a rapid influx of an impoverished rural populace to the cities takes place, then wide-ranging problems with respect to employment and sufficient provisions for housing and other services, as well as the deterioration of social structures, can result.

Because of the pluralistic composition of the South African population, together with the fact that South Africa has a dualistic economy, South African society is presently approaching a full spectrum of all these problems.

The different population groups are in different phases of urbanization.

Whites have a low rate of population growth, together with a high level of urbanization and a low rate of urban population growth.

In contrast, the Black population, which is economically a developing population, has a high rate of growth with a low level of urbanization and a high level of urban population growth.

The Asian and Colored population groups are between these two groups.

12271

CSO: 3401/264

SOUTH AFRICA

FINDINGS OF HSRC STUDY ON RACE RELATIONS DISCUSSED

PRETORIA NEWS Praises, Highlights Findings

Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA DIGEST in English 5 Jul 85 pp 601

[Text]

If there is one overriding impression left from the detailed investigation conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council into South African race relations, it is that a huge task remains to be done if the country is to establish a way of life in which the different groups can live together without serious strife.

The finding that already a majority of blacks, and significant percentages in other groups, accept violence as a means of achieving political aims shows how late in the day things are for South Africa. Though blacks in South Africa enjoy a considerably better standard of living than blacks in the rest of the continent, their yardstick is how their living standards compare with whites in their own country. And no one can deny the size of that gap. Nor can anyone realistically believe that gap can be closed in a month or a year.

What the HSRC investigation does is to reawaken the government to what it should have known a long time ago. The white opposition parties to the left have been pointing it out for years. Black dissident groups have used methods ranging from peaceful protest to sabotage and bloodshed to impress on the government the urgency of reconciling black aspirations with what whites already enjoy. Apartheid solves

nothing. It aggravates.

The most hopeful finding is that whites are a lot more flexible to change than many have given them credit for. Though they may oppose the breaking down of apartheid barriers, their ability to accommodate themselves appears to be high. What is more, the investigation has found that a strong expectation of considerable change is present in all groups. This indicates that South Africa's population has the potential to adapt to the kind of changes essential for peaceful survival.

The HSRC report goes further to identify ways in which South Africans can change to face the future. Prominent among these is the idea of gearing education to assist in racial reconciliation. The finding on the present segregated education system is, ominously, that it contributes to the segmentation of society. A major change, both to bring the different groups together in the education system and to change syllabuses to promote reconciliation, is needed. On top of that is the need to change from the vertical or master-servant type of contact between the races to a more relaxed free association and recognition on the basis of equality. These solutions are more easily identified than applied in practice. But they are the road South Africa has to follow.

Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA DIGEST in English 5 Jul 85 p 601-602

[Text]

A word of appreciation is appropriate for the scientific manner in which the HSRC committee conducted its investigation into inter-group relations and for the penetrating nature of the Marais Report.

It does not make pleasant bedtime reading. The most disturbing aspect revealed by the report is the chasm of prejudice and distrust between Blacks and Whites.

There can be little doubt that former Government policy with its emphasis on separation had a particular, perhaps overriding share in this.

It created compartments in which Whites and Coloured people lived. It could do nothing about geographical mixing of the population which continued irrespective of policy.

But it created an apartheid of communication in which the Black and the Afrikaner especially became strangers to each other. They forgot how to understand each other as people and their future ideals became polarised.

It is disturbing to discover that the future ideals of Black and White are in many respects so diametrically opposed to each other. Fulfilment of one leaves little or no hope for realisation of the other. Thus we have largely landed in a situation of ultimatum.

As relevant to our circumstances is the finding that the Black does not compare himself with his equivalent in other African countries. He observes his own position, politically, socially and economically in terms of that of his White fellow-man.

Fortunately the situation is not hopeless. The report has even found a list of common factors which could serve as points of departure to improve relations or to greater understanding.

What is encouraging is that, if these positive recommendations are weighed up against National Party policy, there are striking similarities.

To try to extract a single recommendation or finding from the report as the most important would be ignoring the complexity of the circumstances and doing the report an injustice.

But the role of personal relations in an intergroup context should be stressed. There is always the temptation, after such a report, of salving one's own conscience by making the Government responsible for it.

The Marais Report makes it quite clear that relations among groups cannot be improved without dedicated effort at personal level.

Briefly, that means that the future depends on individual and personal relations across the colour line.

CSO; 3400/749

SOUTH AFRICA

DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH STILL OPPOSED TO MIXED MARRIAGES

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 10 Jul 85 p 11

[Text]

Mixed marriages should still be regarded as undesirable, says an official publication of the Dutch Reformed Church, *Die Voorligter*.

An editorial article in the latest issue of the magazine argues that a mixed marriage will succeed only in exceptional circumstances because of wide differences in culture and background.

"Apart from that, a mixed couple in the South African society will have to face many problems which will put a big strain on the marriage."

On immorality, *Die Voorligter* says the church has asked several times for a law against extramarital sexual intercourse. The authorities could not comply because it would be impossible to enforce such a law.

SYNOD DECISION

A decision by the General Synod in 1982 said that the abolition of the Mixed Marriages Act would make it impossible to maintain article 16 of the Immorality Act.

"This does not mean that the church condones immorality. There is more than one sin — even direct contraventions of the Ten Commandments — which cannot be made punishable by law."

Article 16 could have given the impression, says *Die Voorligter*, that the church regarded immorality within the same population group as a lesser sin than extramarital intercourse across the colour bar.

CSO: 3400/723

SOUTH AFRICA

BLACK GROUPS PRESSURE WHITE BUSINESSMEN TO BACK DEMANDS

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 12 Jul 85 p 11

[Text]

PORT ELIZABETH — In addition to the terrifying violence and near-anarchy in Eastern Cape black townships, several communities are exerting a more subtle pressure that has forced white commerce to intercede with the authorities to improve township life.

Widespread organised boycotts by black consumers threaten to cripple many white-run businesses.

Businessmen say it is an "unprecedented trend" aimed at bringing a greater awareness of black social and political grievances to white commercial organisations.

In Adelaide, where there has been an almost 100 percent boycott for more than two months, the local businessmen's association and municipal officials have met black township representatives in a bid to end the boycott.

DEMANDS

Public relations officer for the association, Mr Keith Wootton, said his organisation had met the boycott organisers, the Adelaide Youth Congress, who had listed 22 demands to be met before the boycott could be ended.

"Their demands ranged from repairing township roads to the re-

moval of the police and army units from the township," said Mr Wootton. "We wrote to several authorities and forwarded copies of our letters to the Youth Congress — but the boycott has continued."

In nearby Fort Beaufort, where a less effective boycott has been in operation for more than three months, several white-owned businesses which rely mainly on the black trade face bankruptcy unless the boycott is ended, according to the president of the Fort Beaufort Chamber of Commerce, Mr Richard Roy.

Traders in the affected towns say the boycotts are maintained only by a high level of intimidation by black youths.

Last week, a month-long boycott of white-owned businesses in Grahamstown was called off after a township action committee presented a list of 34 demands to the Grahamstown Chamber of Commerce. Among the demands were the withdrawal of police and SADF patrols from the townships and the resignation of the local black community council.

The president of the Port Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce, Mr Frank Whiteman, said: "There is no doubt that the boycotts are a manifestation of the current unrest in the Eastern Cape. This can

be seen from the political demands that are being made as conditions for ending the boycotts."

Asked if businessmen would be able to meet the demands of the boycotters, Mr Whiteman said that, through the Association of Chambers of Commerce, businessmen had access to the Cabinet but, on the local level, it was difficult to determine who to speak to in the divided black townships.

Another problem was that boycotting groups expected that the changes they demanded could be made almost overnight.

Professor Bill Davies, professor of development studies at Rhodes University and former head of the Urban Foundation in the Eastern Cape, said the boycott tactic used in smaller towns could, at last, alert white businessmen to black grievances and could possibly result in political action to redress those grievances.

"I don't believe the organisers of the boycotts think that local white businessmen can solve all the problems facing the black community. But, if the boycotts continue and businesses start going broke, some political reaction may set in and white businessmen will start calling on their local MPs to try to solve these political problems."

SOUTH AFRICA

ANALYSTS PREDICT CONTINUED UNREST

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 19 Jul 85 p 8

[Text]

RIOTS sweeping South Africa's Black townships are likely to continue for the foreseeable future, but the threat of full-scale revolution against the country's White rulers is still remote, political analysts and security sources say.

"Given the duration, intensity and geographic spread of the current unrest, the situation is probably more serious than during the riots of 1976," Mike Hough, director of Pretoria University's Strategic Studies Institute, said.

"This may be part of a revolutionary process, but to say it is the start of a revolution is ridiculous," he added.

Senior South African security sources said privately that the current level of violence, with daily petrol bombings, stonings and police retaliation with shotguns, rubber bullets and teargas, would be the norm for the foreseeable future.

Natal University's centre for Applied Social Sciences said this week in a study of the unrest: "Since mid-1984 election, student, worker and consumer boycotts and stay-way strikes have converged to form a multifaceted pattern of endemic social unrest."

— Sapa- Reuter.

CSO: 3400/723

SOUTH AFRICA

POLL SAYS WHITES FAVOR GREATER INTERRACIAL CONTACT IN SCHOOLS

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 22 Jul 85 p 13

[Text]

MOST South African Whites are in favour of greater inter-racial contact at school level, a compulsory Black language as a school subject and uniform education systems in all four provinces.

A poll conducted among 2 000 Whites by Market and Opinion Surveys (Pty) Ltd for Rapport, and published yesterday, showed that 76,2 percent favoured a Black language being a compulsory subject for White scholars.

Only 10,5 percent rejected the idea.

Support came from 75,9 percent of Afri-

kaans-speaking people polled and 76,7 percent of English-speaking people.

Among Afrikaans-speaking people 11,9 percent were opposed, as compared with a lower 8,5 percent of English-speaking people.

There was wide divergence between Afrikaans and English people on the subject of greater inter-racial contact at school level, where the totals were 54,2 percent in favour and 26,5 percent against.

English-speaking people were overwhelmingly in favour, by 78,7 percent to the 6,8 who said no.

But among Afrikaans-speaking people canvass-

ed, only 36,7 percent were in favour with a large 40,5 percent against and the rest undecided.

There was also a strong difference of opinion between supporters of the White political parties, according to the survey.

Among Progressive Federal Party supporters there was a giant 96,5 percent in favour of more inter-racial contact at school level, as compared with support from 55,2 percent of NP supporters and only seven percent of CP supporters.

Another divergence of opinion was shown between the provinces.

In Natal 72 percent and in the Cape 60,6 percent were in favour, as compared with lower figures of 49 percent in the Transvaal and only 32 percent in the Free State.

On the question as to whether there should be a standard syllabus throughout the country, almost 86 percent approved and only 4,2 percent were opposed.

The "yes" vote was 97 percent in the Free State, 91 percent in Transvaal, 82 percent in the Cape and 69 percent in Natal.

Almost 90 percent of Afrikaans-speaking people canvassed were in favour of abolishing provincial differences in education as compared with 79 percent of English-speaking people.

21 August 1985

SOUTH AFRICA

STELLENBOSCH PROFESSOR DISCUSSES KEY TO ENDING UNREST

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 25 Jul 85 p 20

[Article by Brian Stuart]

[Text] Cape Town, -- Success in ending unrest in South Africa depends on the nature and tempo of structural reform, says Professor Willie Esterhuyse, senior lecturer in philosophy at Stellenbosch University.

Prof Esterhuyse, a leading figure in the political philosophy of the National Party, said that in spite of the country being on the knife-edge between the ideal of stability and the forces of instability, it was safe to assume that a revolution was not inevitable.

Writing in the Magazine Leadership, he said success in overcoming unrest depended on the nature and tempo of structural reform, and consequently on the effectiveness with which participation in government was broadened.

South Africans had to learn "the art of associating" with one another and had to create institutions with authority to give expression to the needs and expectations of the country's people.

Prof Esterhuyse said unrest that resulted from structural differences, especially in the political field, could not be ended overnight. There had to be persistent attempts at reform, negotiation and compromise.

However, it was of the greatest importance that unrest and disorder should be limited to manageable proportions in the short to medium term. The chances of achieving this were better than some people imagined or that others wished.

While the Government was committed to reform, as expressed by the State President, Mr P W Botha, there were obstacles in the way of "a restructuring of the South African system".

One such obstacle was that segment of the White voting corps still caught up in the ideological illusions of the past, said President Esterhuyse.

The presence of this group created serious problems for the implementation of fundamental reform and did not improve the prospects of stability.

Another important obstacle was the deepseated distrust among Blacks at the Government's intentions, especially in regard to the negotiation process.

Blacks wanted more tangible evidence of the Government's intentions, evidence that would induce them to participate in the body politic.

A part of this tangible evidence wanted by Blacks was the unconditional release of Mr Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners, said Prof Esterhuyse.

There was also a Blac majority which wanted a national convention to discuss South Africa's political future.

Stability

The prospects for socio-political stability would be considerably enhanced if, in one way or another, concessions could be made in regard to some of these requests. Alternatively they might be included in an agenda for provisional negotiations.

Prof Esterhuyse said the abolition of influx control and the pass laws would also contribute much to improved Black-White relations.

"These laws affect the lives of Blacks from morning to night and the political price paid for this is great. The experience of constantly being under police control has contributed much to the feeling among Blacks that they are the 'oppressed' and the Whites are the 'oppressors'."

CSO: 3400/747

21 August 1985

SOUTH AFRICA

MULDER CALLS FOR REDIVISION OF LAND AS SOLUTION TO NATION'S PROBLEMS

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 19 Jul 85 p 8

[Article by Brian Stuart]

[Text]

A solution to South Africa's problems cannot be achieved by dividing power, but is possible through a re-division of the land, says Dr Connie Mulder, Conservative Party member of the President's Council and former Cabinet Minister.

Dr Mulder told the Afrikaanse Studentebond Congress in Stellenbosch on Wednesday night that

every nation strived for the greatest measure of personal freedom within a free and sovereign country.

No policy which did not acknowledge this fact would be acceptable or would succeed. No nation would willingly allow itself to be permanently dominated by another.

"As long as South Africa is viewed and governed as a unitary state the differences and the variety in the national composition will make such high demands of the constitution that success is highly unlikely," said Dr Mulder.

In last year's elections for the new parliament, about 70 percent of Coloured voters and 80 percent of Indian voters abstained.

Dr Mulder said reason showed that "if you have once set your foot on the road of power-sharing, you cannot in the long run keep the Black man out."

That happened in Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The problem was that valuable time was lost on a road which academic experts said could not succeed.

"The new dispensation will work as long as the State President is prepared to concede to every demand of his Coloured and Indian associates in his coalition government.

"The clash will come when all concessions are made and the associates insist on bringing in the Blacks in a fourth Chamber."

Dr Mulder said the demand was for one-man-one-vote, and this demand could not be accommodated on the present road.

In a plural society such as South Africa this demand could be met within "a re-division of the land".

Within these states one nation would not dominate another, full human rights could be enjoyed together with freedom of movement, speech and religion.

Movement between the newly-created states could be regulated by visa and passport controls, while economic co-operation could flourish in an organisation similar to the European Economic Community.

Joint affairs could be discussed in a States'

Council. The chairmanship could rotate among the member nations, each of which enjoyed sovereignty.

"Otherwise each state would have its own political citizenship linked with the franchise and other citizenship rights.

"This would require action, dynamic action, and time is running out. That is why I resent the Government plodding on a road which temporarily may appear to succeed but, because of its final product, cannot be a success," said Dr Mulder.

SOUTH AFRICA

BORDER BAN ON PRIESTS

Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 11 Jul 85 p 1

[Article by Patrick Cull]

[Text]

ANGLICAN military chaplains are to be barred from working in the operational area. The ban comes in the wake of a decision taken by the provincial synod of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa to amend the canons of the church.

The change still has to pass the third reading, but this is regarded as little more than a formality.

The change in the canon, which was proposed by Rev David Russell of Cape Town, prevents any chaplain working in the operational area without the permission of the Bishop of Namibia.

And Bishop James Kauluma has indi-

cated he will not license any priest to work there.

To do so, he maintains, would be incongruous with the present attitude adopted by the diocese of Namibia, in terms of which:

- ☐ No military chaplains are licensed,
- ☐ Priests are forbidden to minister on defence force property, and
- ☐ Anglican Defence Force personnel are only welcomed at church if they are not armed, and not in uniform.

The Anglican church has seven full-time chaplains and about 30 part-time ones.

CSO: 3400/723

SOUTH AFRICA

FAR-REACHING CHANGES TAKEN BY CHURCH ON MILITARY ISSUES

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 12 Jul 85 p 11

[Text]

MARITZBURG — Three far-reaching changes in the official stand of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa on military issues emanating from the 25th Anglican Synod here, are bound to cause considerable concern among white members of the church.

The triennial synod of the church, which has a membership of nearly two million — less than 20 per cent of whom are white — closes today.

Two motions passed with vast majorities, and a proposed change in canon (church) law — the latter to be finalised only today — affect members of the church in the SADF, specifically conscripts.

MAJORITY VOTES

The most contentious matter is that of the change in canon law concerning the authority of bishops over priests who work in their areas, but who were licensed by bishops of other dioceses.

Changes in canons have to pass successfully through three readings and need not only majority votes in each of the houses of laity, clergy and bishops, but also an overall two-thirds majority.

The implication of a change in the relevant canon, if passed, is that chaplains ministering, for example, in the operational area in Namibia would need the permission of the Bishop of Namibia to provide pastoral care for Anglican members of the SADF.

Archbishop Philip Russell of Cape Town, following the acceptance in principle of the canon, issued a statement saying he would endeavour to ensure that any Anglican in the SADF would receive the ministrations of a priest.

The Bishop of Namibia, the Rt Rev James Kaluma, is also president of the Council of Churches of Namibia, which considers the SADF's presence in Namibia an illegal occupation.

Debates on the issue centred much of the time on the plight of conscripts — who have little choice over their fate, the synod was told. Alternatives consisted of a life in exile, alternative non-combatant or community service, or six years' jail.

The question is whether these men should be deprived of pastoral care while in the border area.

Approached for comment on what his stand would

be should the canon pass through the third stage, Bishop Kaluma said yesterday: "I plan to seek the mind of my diocese on my return home. We will then let everyone know where we are as a diocese."

Earlier reports indicated the diocese would not give chaplains its blessing to be in the operational area.

The second stand — marked "controversial", and which consequently also needed a two-thirds majority — relates to chaplaincy in "national defence forces".

The resolution — with a preamble stating the synod believes those serving in defence forces "should continue to have the spiritual ministrations and pastoral care of chaplains" — aims to demilitarise chaplaincy.

The synod resolved that:

- Chaplains should be seen as representatives of Christ and his church, not the military. This should be reflected in their dress, which should be acceptable to both the military and church but should avoid identification with the military.
- Chaplains should not carry arms.
- Chaplains should be paid by the church.
- The bishops should take great care to appoint fit people, gifted for this particular ministry.
- The church should provide clear guidelines and adequate training for chaplains.

UNDUE INFLUENCE

- The bishops should ensure that priests do not serve on a permanent basis, to ensure that they remain free from undue influence by perceptions, policies and the ethos of the military.
- The bishops should make clear to the military the role of Christian members of military forces.
- Chaplains should be directly responsible to the bishops.

A third decision affected the Board of Religious Objectors, which has as one of its members the chief Anglican chaplain of the SADF, the Rev John Dain.

The appointment of members to the board is done by the authorities, and the synod requested that the bishop of the church should make it clear to the Ministers of Manpower and Defence that the church does not want a permanent member on the board.

The implication of this is that it would enable religious objectors from the Anglican Church to call upon one of its theologians to sit on the board when their cases are heard. This is only possible when a church does not already have a permanent member.

The permanent presence of an Anglican priest was also considered to give the impression that the church supported the Defence Amendment Act of 1983, which allows military service exemption only on grounds of bona fide religious reasons or universal pacifism.

This is seen to be in contradiction to the view of the church, which supports the principle that people should be able to refuse military service also on ethical grounds, and includes the belief of the just-war doctrine.

The motion also asked that provision also be made for alternative service for objectors (when approved by the board for religious objectors) under the auspices of the church or welfare organisations. At present those who serve in community fall under the authority of the Department of Manpower.

At the end of the day, the Anglican Church has not condemned those who serve in any capacity in "national defence forces". This was made clear also in its "Just-War Report", which leaves decisions to take up arms up to the individual conscience.

And it would not approve all-out support for the End Conscription Campaign either — the church gave only its "general support".

CSO: 3400/739

SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTER SAYS CISKEI'S GROWTH AMONG WORLD'S BEST

East London DAILY DISPATCH in English 24 Jun 85 p 1

[Article by Andre Jordann]

[Text] East London--Ciskei's growth rate of six per cent in 1984 was one of the highest in the world, delegates to the annual conference of the Ciskei Chamber of Commerce and Industries were told at the weekend.

Ciskei's Minister of Defence, Chief N. D. Mavuso, said the high growth rate showed that Ciskei's economic reforms were bearing fruit.

"Unemployment is falling. Ciskeians are returning to their home from all over Southern Africa. We are well on the way to being Africa's first economic miracle," he said.

The director of the Free Market Foundation, Mr Leon Louw, said the figure of six per cent would give Ciskei the third highest growth rate in the world at a time when many other countries were sinking into recession.

"Here is this little place that is prospering. Peace has come to Ciskei. Two years ago it was riddled with unemployment, boycotts and labour unrest while the other areas were peaceful. Now it's the other way round."

Mr Louw said that labour bureaux reported that people were no longer registering as unemployed and factories at Dimbaza were unable to find enough workers. There was an influx of people into Ciskei.

"I hope Ciskei will continue to be a place to which people seeking freedom can go," he said.

CSO: 3400/720

21 August 1985

SOUTH AFRICA

ANC'S DECISION TO INTENSIFY OFFENSIVE ANALYZED

Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA DIGEST in English 5 Jul 85 p 602

[Text]

If the African National Congress could convince anyone that its fairly low-level terrorist activities of the past few years had been the cause of reform in government policies, the logic of stepping up that terrorism to force greater and faster change could be more easily understood (though not appreciated or applauded in human terms). But it is failure, not success, that has triggered the ANC decision at its recent secret congress to allow the distinction between "soft" and "hard" targets to disappear in intensifying its political and military offensive in South Africa.

More accommodating government policies, which give hope of full and genuine political rights being granted to blacks in the medium term, flow from the accession to power of Mr P.W. Botha. And while he has been at the political helm, the ANC has been driven out of Lesotho and out of Mozambique and has generally been on the run. The very reform policies of the government threaten the power base of the ANC, because black grievances are being

reduced. The new wave of ANC violence in this context appears more an act of desperation to reassert its slipping grip over black South Africa than to press home an advantage gained over the white rulers of South Africa.

It is for this reason that the ANC decision to step up violence must be deplored in the strongest possible terms.

But if South Africa faces escalating terror in which civilians are as much at risk as security forces, then it must consider its response. It is not enough to put security clamps on society to minimise ANC guerrilla activities, although vigilance also becomes essential. The government must move with the utmost speed to see that an enlightened political policy can win the support of blacks rather than allow them to succumb to the terror authority of the ANC. The country may face some tough years as a result of the ANC's later decision, but only just policies can rescue South Africa from its mounting problems.

CSO: 3400/749

SOUTH AFRICA

NEW WEEKLY ALLEGES POLICE AID TO RENAMO

Pretoria DIE AFRIKANER in Afrikaans 26 Jun 85 p 3

[Article: "'Police Helps RENAMO'"]

[Text] Members of the South African Police gave assistance to the Mozambique National Resistance Movement [RENAMO] as recently as April of this year.

This allegation was made in the first issue of a Johannesburg weekly, THE WEEKLY MAIL. This newspaper is being published by journalists who were previously on the editorial staff of the RAND DAILY MAIL.

According to the report, a number of Black detainees in the Eastern Transvaal have signed sworn statements to the effect that RENAMO has enjoyed the cooperation of the [South African] Police. They say that the Police brought representatives of RENAMO to prisons in the Eastern Transvaal where they conducted talks with detainees. The detainees, all Blacks from Mozambique, were questioned on conditions in Mozambique, and attempts were also made to recruit them for the rebel movement.

The newspaper reports that the Black Sash has investigated a number of cases of Shangaans who were detained on illegal immigration charges. "Observers were confused by these arrests, and only recently--when the link with RENAMO became obvious--did there emerge a possible reason for the arrests," THE WEEKLY MAIL reports.

One of the detainees, Peter Mabaso, told the newspaper that he visited Mozambique on 6 January. On his return, he was taken into custody as an illegal immigrant, even though his documents were in order. During his stay in the police cells at Malalane, he was visited on several occasions by representatives of RENAMO, Mabaso alleges.

After the charge against him was dropped and he was released, he was taken into custody a second time at Nelspruit. Here a White man visited him and talked to him about RENAMO. He was urged to join RENAMO so that the charge against him could be dropped, Mabaso says.

12271
CSO: 3401/264

SOUTH AFRICA

SHOCK OVER UDF MEMBERS' MURDERS REPORTED

Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 4 Jul 85 p 7

[Article by Sefako Nyaka]

[Text] The anger of black people over the disappearance of two prominent members of the United Democratic Front, turned to open revulsion yesterday.

When the disappearance of Cradock leaders, Mr Matthew Goniwe and Mr Fort Calata was announced, there were fears that the two men would never be seen alive again.

And yesterday when news about the fate of the two filtered through, it only confirmed the people's fears that there is a systematic programme to eliminate black political activists.

The discovery of the charred and mutilated bodies of Mr Goniwe and Mr Calata at Blue Waters, south of Port Elizabeth, on Tuesday afternoon, signals a new turn in political "assassinations" in South Africa.

Thursday's discovery, made after a police and military search by ground and air, accounts for all four political activists--all members of the United Democratic Front--who disappeared last Thursday evening, leaving only the gutted shell of Mr Goniwe's car on the Port Elizabeth-Grahamstown road as an ominous indication of their fate.

The former Robben Island prisoner had 45 stab wounds, a slit throat and his stomach was ripped open and his ears almost cut off.

Former Cosas president, Mr Siphiwe Mtimkulu disappeared without trace outside a Port Elizabeth hospital. He had gone to the Livinstone Hospital for medication.

What is more baffling is that Mr Mtimkulu disappeared after having fled a law suit against the police claiming torture and poisoning.

These are fears the community that the dead and missing men are victims of a programme of "systematic elimination of anti-apartheid activists" by unknown agents.

But while the fighting between Azapo and the UDF continues, those responsible for the dastardly acts will always have a chance of blaming it on either of the two groups.

It is not time to unite and in so doing isolate the barbaric murderers? This is the question we should be asking.

About ten years ago top Zimbabwe nationalist, Dr Edson Shithole—who earned a law doctorate while in prison—disappeared without trace in what was then known as Salisbury.

Bodies

The bodies of two other Cradock executive members, Mr Thomas "Sparrow" Mkonto and Outshoorn teacher Mr Siculo Mhlawuli were found at the weekend.

This year alone eight people have disappeared — or died — under mysterious circumstances. And all were prominent figures in the black political arena.

• Three leaders of the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organisation (Pebco) disappeared without trace shortly after the successful March stay-away in Port Elizabeth. They are:

Pebco founder

member and president, Mr Qaqawuli Godolozzi, general secretary and former Robben Island prisoner, Mr Sipho Hashe and organising secretary and general workers' Union member Mr Champion Gabela.

• Two months ago the publicity secretary of the Soweto branch of Cosas, Mr Jabu Maluleke was mysteriously taken off a Soweto-bound train at Dube.

However, the "murder" and "abduction" of black political activists is not new. On November 20, 1980, the mutilated body of Durban lawyer Mr Griffiths Mxenge was found near the Umlazi Cycling Stadium.

CSO: 3400/666

SOUTH AFRICA

21ST BATTALION'S FUNCTION AS BLACK TRAINING UNIT VALUABLE ASSET

Pretoria PARATUS in English Jun 85 pp 52-54

[Text]

A new era in the history of the SA Army was started when in November 1973 Genl Magnus Malan, then Chief of the Army, received the go-ahead to form the SA Army Bantu Training School (SAABTS). This was the conceptual birth of 21 Battalion.

In January the following year, the first step was taken in this direction. Ten selected white Permanent Force members began an orientation course under the command of Maj M.W. Pretorius (the unit's first OC) at the Prison Services Bantu Training College next to Baviaanspoort. Under these new instructors, the first 16 black members (chosen mainly from the Bantu Labour Services of the SADF) began their basic training on 18 March 1974. This was the date of birth for 21 Battalion.

Originally this group was to be trained as security guards, but after the second intake of members during August 1974 it was decided that the first group should continue their training to become regimental instructors.

Initially there was difficulty in locating a suitable base in which this training could be carried out. By 1975 Baviaanspoort seemed well disposed for this purpose and became the training base for the school. On 4 April that year, the first black soldiers attested as Permanent Force members of the SADF. That same month, the training of the first black instructors in the different unit task groups began, with the aim of establishing the school as a fully self-sufficient unit.

BY December 1975, the SAABTS was self-supporting producing its own instructors for its various sections. It was then that the school moved to its present location. Accompanying this move was a change in the unit's title to 21 Battalion. The reason for this name was due to the fact that the unit moved in the same year that the SA Infantry Corps turned 21 years old.

During 1976 the first black PF members were promoted to the rank of corporal. Also during that year 21 Bn trained 151 members of 1 Transkei Battalion in preparation for the independence of Transkei. That year 1 Ovambo Bn also received their basic training at the unit.

In May 1977, the Chief of the Defence force gave authorisation for the training of the first company for operational service. This company went to the Operational Area in March 1978. As a result of the successful achievements of this company, 21 Bn received the authority to train a second operational company.

During 1978, members were trained for the Venda National Defence Force. A change of command took place that year and Cmdt H. Swanepoel became the second OC of 21 Battalion.

Early in 1979, the unit's first sergeants were nominated and the second operational company went to the Border. Later that year another company was sent for operational service and for the first time black platoon sergeants were used in this company. In February that year, the first members of the Republic's black regional companies arrived for the orientation and basic training at 21 Bn.

There was a change of a command in 1982 and Cmdt L. Kotze became the unit's third OC.

DURING 1982 the rationalisation of training took place with the formation of five wings namely an infantry wing, a regimental wing, a service wing, a counter-insurgency wing and a catering wing. It was in that year that 21 Bn received their unit flag and the first operational company was deployed in Sector 70.

Thus in the first eight years of the unit's life, it progressed from a training school for security guards to a fully developed Corps School for black soldiers.

One of the highlights of the unit's history was when they received the Freedom of Soweto in 1983. To celebrate the occasion, 21 Bn held a parade and marched through the streets of Soweto. On 15 December that year a change of command took place and Cmdt M.J. Buitendag became the unit's fourth and present-day OC.

The highlight of 1984 was when the first two black officers of 21 Bn were commissioned with the rank of lieutenant.

The prime function of 21 Bn is to train black soldiers for the SA Defence Force and for the National States. As such, training is the fundamental aspect of 21 Bn and it prepares the member for his future task, whether it be in a service capacity or as an infantryman. The battalion holds the following courses: a) basic training, b) leader group training, c) promotional courses for black SA Army members up to the rank of WO2, d) promotional courses for black SA Army members in the supporting services of the fighting elements up to the rank of staff sergeant, e) qualifying courses (in a particular task) of black PF members, f) orientation of white officers and NCO's before being posted to black regional units, g) advanced training for all members of the National States and lastly advanced leadership training of black commando members.

This training takes place in English, Afrikaans and certain black languages. It is evaluated by means of written examinations and practicals.

21 Battalion as a unit, is a large, well controlled area that consists of many facilities that combine to produce an organised, self-supporting training outfit. These include a Training School, a personnel section, an Adult Education Centre, Military Police office, a quartermaster, a unit band, a unit chaplain and a large sick-bay.

Sport is of course an important part of the unit's training programme and is therefore encouraged. The unit has already had three sportsmen who have received their Springbok colours, and a soccer team (21 Bn Young Tigers) who succeeded in playing in the third league of the NPSL. Sgt M.J. Tsagae was the first member of the unit to receive his Springbok colours for boxing. After him L Cpl G. Strydom received his colours, also in boxing and Lt P.M. du Toit received his colours in wrestling. A host of sports are offered at the unit.

21 Bn's 33 bed sick-bay, which administers medical treatment to the unit and surrounding regions, can deal with a variety of ailments which include flues, accidents and fractures. Serious medical cases are sent to 1 Military Hospital. The sick-bay, which treats both in- and out-patients, is manned daily by two full-time doctors, a dentist, a nursing sister, seven black PF medical orderlies and three NSM medical orderlies.

The sick-bay admits black and white NSM in the whole Witwatersrand area. Dependants of the unit's black PF members are treated on an out-patient basis and they are referred to the nearest provincial hospital of their choice for specialised treatment.

The sick-bay carries out a community care programme in the unit which offers home visits to black mothers as well as convalescents. They also offer the immunisation of babies. This programme is for the black PF NCO members who live in the unit's housing facilities.

On the job training is carried out for black and white medical orderlies at the sick-bay and lectures are given on hygiene and buddy-aid to the unit's members.

In 1981 the Adult Education Centre was formed for the purposes of improving the academic qualifications of the unit's black members. The centre's facilities include four lecture rooms, a library and a laboratory and it is run by six qualified teachers who are NSM at 21 Bn.

The centre, which teaches students from standard six to matric (Senior Certificate) has had a very successful pass rate. There were 73 students enrolled last year and 88 percent of them achieved a pass rate. One of the unit's first black officers received his matric certificate through the centre.

This year there are ten wives of the unit's black PF members who are attending courses at the centre. The subjects taught include biology, English, Afrikaans, business economics, history and Biblical studies. Teaching aids which have been supplied by sponsors include skeletons, slide shows, overhead projectors, transparencies and videos.

The 21 Bn Band which started nearly eight years ago on 1 June 1977, is a brass band that originally consisted of only seven people. Today the band, under the leadership of WO1 J.J. Steyn, consists of eight trumpeters, three euphoniums, three tenors, three trombones, four bassists and horns.

All the band members are musically qualified and some possess a Grade 8 theory and practical. In 1978 the band made its first appearance in the Operational Area. One of the highlights of their achievements was when they received a commendation certificate from the commanding officer of sector 70.

A pop group under the leadership of S Sgt Lefty Phashe was formed last year and they have performed together with the brass band at a variety of shows such as the Rand Easter Show, Pretoria, Pietersburg, Port Elizabeth and Qwa-Qwa show as well. The group has played at military tattoos and for television. Their music includes jazz, rock, reggae and disco, but they also compose some of their own material.

Upon making contact with 21 Bn's quartermasters stores, it was easy to understand why they came fifth out of 129 units in the SA Army logistical

evaluation for 1984. The stores and organisation of equipment can only be said to be tidy, well controlled and carefully planned. In fact 21 Bn received a four star grading on its safety rating certificate for loss control in 1984.

They are aiming for a five star rating this year and have suffered no losses of equipment so far.

QM's functions include general base maintenance, the supply of rations and logistical back-up for training, eg issuing of equipment and basic logistical administration. They have also supplied 115 Bn with full logistic support and equipment.

The staff that man 21 Bn's QM consist of only three white PF members, the remainder being 52 black PF members. QM positions that are normally occupied by WO2 and WO1 ranks are successfully manned by their black staff sergeants. These include positions such as RSQM, Chief Storeman and Stores Inspector.

21 Battalion is controlled by a military police office that is housed next to the main entrance of the unit. Their functions include traffic control and the investigation of criminal cases which they carry out often in conjunction with the SA Police at Westonaria. They execute full MP coverage at the battalion and also carry out tasks that are given to them by the officer commanding Provos Unit Boksburg North.

The Catering School, which falls under the Training Wing of the battalion, consists of two sections namely training kitchens which include a bakery department and the actual unit kitchen which feeds the battalion. There are three chef courses run by the Catering School which consist of a basic chef course, an intermediate and an advanced chef course.

The second in command of the Catering School, Sgt N.B. Menue, is one of the instructor chefs who is responsible for training the learner chefs on the latter courses. "The basic course that we run is the very first cooking course in a chef's career. During its four month period, the chef is taught how to prepare soups, fish and meat dishes, vegetables and puddings," said Sgt Menue.

The unit kitchen is manned completely by the battalion's own black staff and they cater for an officer's mess, a senior NCO, NCO and privates mess.

Also under the Training Wing is the battalion's Driving and Maintenance section. Here the Transport Officer, who is the first black QM CO in the SA Army, carries out a host of functions. CO P.M. Magoro ensures that maintenance and preventative repairs are carried out on all the unit's vehicles.

In fact, in the units Transport Park there is a huge control board from which complete vehicle control is carried out. The frequency of vehicle services are monitored as well as preventative maintenance and accident control. The allocation of vehicles to various parts of the unit and the

determination of where a vehicle is travelling at any time, is also monitored on the board. Distance charts are kept to control the distances travelled by the unit's vehicles.

When looking at the training received by the battalion's soldiers, it must be understood that this training is the same as that of any white soldier. In the SADF there is no difference between the training of white and black soldiers.

21 Bn has assisted in the training of the first Ovambo Bn, the Ciskei Defence Force, the Transkei DF and is presently training members for the Quandabele DF.

Basic and advanced training to operate a defence force is dealt with covering catering, administration, transportation and of course full combat training.

In order for black recruits to join the SADF as a member of a regional unit or of 21 Bn itself, they have to go through a selection process. Standard eight is the minimum education requirement and the recruit must be between the ages of 18 and 35. After writing an aptitude test, he appears in front of a selection board. He must be classified as 100 percent medically fit and have no criminal record. A psychology test as laid down by the Surgeon General has to be passed which determines the recruit's ability to cope with military life. There is no ethnic discrimination in the selection of recruits.

"Their neatness, drilling, perseverance and general discipline is very good," said Maj P.H. Vosloo, 21C of the Bn, who is in charge of training. "Their ability in bush warfare is excellent. In all the contacts our operational companies have made, the unit has not lost one person due to operational circumstances. This is due to the high standard of training they receive," he said. 21 Bn has executed five operational stints, two at Caprivi and three at Ovambo, between 1978 and 1983.

The Personnel Division of 21 Bn, under the command of Capt J.M. Botha, is manned almost completely by the unit's black staff. It consists of an orderly room, career planning, personnel administration and a finance section. "All these separate functions are managed by our own sergeants and staff sergeants who carry out work of a very high standard," said Capt Botha. "To give these men the responsibility of fulfilling their tasks as laid down by personnel administration codes, is something they execute exceptionally well," he said.

CSO: 3400/666

SOUTH AFRICA

NAIROBI ANC GROUP DOES NOT RECOGNIZE RSA STATE OF EMERGENCY

EA241552 Nairobi KNA in English 1325 GMT 24 Jul 85

[Text] Nairobi, July 24--The African National Congress (ANC) announced in Nairobi today that it did not recognize the existence of a state of emergency in South Africa. And it pledged to continue with the struggle until the south African apartheid regime was toppled.

Addressing a press conference at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre this morning, the ANC delegation said the South African African [as received] blacks had intensified their attacks on all institutions in the black areas and we shall increasingly move to the white areas.

The delegation is led by Ms Gertrude Shope while the other members of the group who attended the conference included Ms Mulcie September, Frene Ginwala and Ruth Mompati. They described the introduction of a state of emergency in South Africa as an admission that the ANC was able to mobilize the oppressed people of South Africa. The delegation pointed out that South Africans were united even at this time of the state of emergency and re-echoed the ANC president Oliver Tambo's announcement that the struggle will be intensified.

Waving a rubber bullet, Ms Shope told the well attended press conference that the racist regime was using both live and rubber bullets to exterminate their opponents.

CSO: 3400/733

SOUTH AFRICA

SALE OF TRUST LAND TO FARMERS ENVISAGED IN CISKEI

East London DAILY DISPATCH in English 24 Jun 85 p 2

[Text]

EAST LONDON — Ciskei had evolved an imaginative land reform policy which combined the best elements of both the Western land tenure system and the traditional system in Ciskei, the Minister of Defence, Chief N. D. Mavuso, said at the annual conference of the Ciskei Chamber of Commerce and Industries at King William's Town.

Chief Mavuso said that in the traditional land tenure system there had been no African socialism. "This was a myth created by Marxists in order to justify the confiscation of land from its original owners throughout black Africa."

Land usage rights had always been private and individual but the colonial era had seen the erosion of these rights.

Ciskei's policy was to re-structure the traditional system and enhance it with modern concepts like the right to sell, lease and mortgage land rights. The tribal authorities would decide for themselves who could occupy or own land under their jurisdiction. The process of land reform would be a varied one which could be constantly adjusted to enable the smooth introduction of a true free market with the mini-

mum disruption to traditions and values.

Holders of land rights would receive proper title deeds and would, subject to tribal authority rights, be able to freely exchange and mortgage their land rights. This would enable efficient people to acquire additional land.

In townships outside the tribal authorities, all restrictions relating to race, nationality and citizenship would be removed.

Chief Mavuso said a third of Ciskei's land was "trust land" which had been bought by the South African Government and transferred to Ciskei. A programme was being devised for the sale of this land to private commercial farmers and some of it would be granted to tribal authorities. "Some of this land will be restricted to Ciskeians and some will be unrestricted," he said.

Two members of the Swart Commission, which drafted a programme of economic and legislative reforms for Ciskei, urged Ciskeian businessmen to play their part in preserving and extending the economic freedom promised them in terms of tax reforms and other legislation to de-regulate

business in Ciskei.

They said that while the changes in Ciskei presented an alternative to socialism and over-regulation, there would be vested interests who would attempt to put pressure on Ciskei's "courageous politicians" to dismantle the free-market reforms they had introduced.

21 August 1985

SOUTH AFRICA

DETAILS ON EMIGRATION

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 20 Jul 85 p 9

[Text]

POLITICAL unrest and the state of the economy are forcing more South Africans to seek greener pastures abroad, particularly professional people.

This is according to Mr Sid Catton of a leading personnel agency, Professional Assignments Group.

Figures from the Central Statistical Services in Pretoria indicate that nearly 1 000 people emigrated in March this year, whereas last year the figure was 761.

Emigration during

the first three months is up 14 percent on the same period last year.

Financial people tend to go to Australia, Canada and the US. A sprinkling also go to the UK.

"It is relatively easy for accountants to adapt to these countries because of the reciprocity of diplomas. Their qualifications are accepted without problems," says Mr Catton.

Engineers and draughtsmen go mainly to the UK and else-

where in Europe. "They rely on their experience rather than on their qualifications."

Accountants are usually South African and they tend to look to the 'new world' (America, Australia, Canada) rather than the European 'old world', he says.

In the computer field destinations vary. "At the moment there is a big demand in Europe, but also in Australia and Canada.

"There has not been a major exodus of computer staff, though, as there is a healthy demand here. In the US, on the other hand, there is an over-supply of computer staff," he says.

People in secretarial and clerical positions are not usually bread-winners so there is not much activity in this field. There is also not a big trend toward emigrations in the marketing category at the moment, according to Mr Catton.

CSO: 3400/738

SOUTH AFRICA

OUTLOOK FOR CAR INDUSTRY GRIM

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 11 Jul 85 p 11

[Article by Evert van Niekerk]

[Text]

TENS of thousands of motor industry employees have already lost their jobs and the crisis has now reached top management level as well with many more workers, from factory floors to management, to get their walking tickets as the worst car slump ever in the motor industry takes on greater momentum.

Industry sources told The Citizen yesterday that the present fiscal and monetary mix is extremely adverse to the motor industry, but that other manufacturers of durable goods are also in a situation of "distress".

"Unless interest rates are lowered — or the Government extends repayment times on hire purchases — the situation will get worse and worse for manufacturers of durable goods, and it will affect employees at all levels. Because the motor industry has always been in the limelight our situation receives the most public attention, but I can assure you that elsewhere in the manufacturing industry it is not going any better."

The Citizen was told that more than 7 000 motor manufacturing industry workers have lost their jobs in the past 12 months. Since vehicle sales began to drop in 1982 the industry has cut employment down by more than 11 000 workers.

It was pointed out that the downturn in vehicle sales, which in the case of some manufacturers is about 60 percent less than last year, is also having an adverse effect throughout the associated industries. "At least 100 vehicle agencies have had to close their doors during the past few months, and some of them were previously well established concerns in operation for more than 30 years."

Mr Jannie van Huysteen, executive director of the Motor Industries' Federation said in the retail garage trade more than 20 000 employees have lost their jobs during the past 12 months because of the downturn in the economy which in turn adversely affected vehicle sales.

"However the new perks tax has a direct bearing on the slump of car sales," he said. "We

have clearly seen that the market for good used executive cars has become buoyant because people pay less fringe benefit tax."

Other industries in the motor trade which have been hard hit are component and tyre manufacturers who now have to cut production and staff to supply a far smaller demand from vehicle manufacturers.

"It would appear as though the downturn in

vehicle sales is greater than it really should be," another industry source told The Citizen. "It is, however, time that the Government takes the brakes off as the prime rate is coming down — clear signs that the economy is improving and perhaps a positive chance for our industry is imminent."

Most manufacturers are also working on short-time, having cut vehicle production down to meet the lower demand.

PE Car Plant Strikes Cause Two Shutdowns

PORT ELIZABETH. — Volkswagen and the locomotive plant of General Motors shut down yesterday through continuing strike action by the workers.

Workers at Ford's Neave plant resumed work early yesterday but by 10.30am had downed tools again. They went out on strike on Wednesday.

A spokesman for Ford said it was not clear at this stage whether the Neave plant would be closed down for the day.

On Wednesday, for the second time this year, all three motor companies in the Eastern Cape had workers out on strike.

The first occasion was a few months ago when the three closed in Domino Fashion during a wave of strikes over interim wage grievances.

This time, the strikers at all three plants have differing grievances.

Volkswagen management said that because so few workers had reported for duty yesterday, the entire plant — affecting some 3 500 workers —

would have to close down for the day.

Last week, Volkswagen workers downed tools for three days over management's decision to lend mini-buses for the All Black rugby tour.

The plant also closed down on Wednesday afternoon shortly after workers on the Golf production line downed tools. The Golf line accounts for some 70 percent of the total production at the company.

The workers have said they want their pension contributions paid out to them and are also unhappy with the existing pension scheme.

Both unions representing the workers — the National Automobile and Allied Workers' Union (NAAWU) and the Federation of South African Trade Unions (Fosatu) — were told that management would consider the feasibility of refunding their pension contributions.

The GM loco plant is to close until Monday because of an unresolved strike that started there

last Monday. Earlier, GM announced the closure of their plant at Kempston Road until Monday to allow inventory realignment.

The workers at the loco plant situated at Aloes downed tools on Monday over an alleged row between a White supervisor and a worker. The workers want action taken against the supervisor.

The workers at Ford's Neave plant resumed work again yesterday after the entire workforce at the Neave plant downed tools yesterday in protest over their wage increases being held over until November.

The regional secretary for NAAWU, Mr Les Ketteldas, said the em-

ployees were refusing to work unless their wage increases were in line with the other two motor companies.

According to Mr Ketteldas, workers at GM and Volkswagen had their interim wage increases back-dated to February 1. The Ford workers however only had their interim wage increases back-dated to May 1.

Wage increases are due six months after the back-dated date.

Consequently, VW and GM workers had been told they would get across-the-board increases on August 1 whereas Ford workers had been told they would only receive their increases on November 1.

CSO: 3400/715

RECORD WOOL SEASON REPORTED

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 20 Jul 85 p 17

[Text]

PORT ELIZABETH. — South African wool producers reported a record 1984/85 season ended May with revenues up 39 percent at R402-million from the previous season's R290-million, the Wool Board said.

It said revenue increased because of a fall in the rand on the exchange market and im-

proved demand, especially for fine wool. Raw wool traded at an average R4,10 a kg compared with a previous R2,87 and a record R22,15 was paid for a single bale of super fine wool, the Board said.

The Board said it had drawn on its stock-fund by about R49-million because of improved prices received, leaving around

R13.3-million in the fund calculated on average prices received during the 1984/85 season.

It said there had been a decrease in production because of a prolonged drought, adding that during the past two seasons production had declined by eight percent.

The Board said the country's approximately 30 000 farmers produced 98.2-million kg of wool, 3,3 percent less than last year's figure of 101,6-million and the lowest production figure since the 1947/48 season.

It said 99,5 percent of the 669,000 bales of wool offered this season was sold.

The board said South Africa's most important wool trading partner this year was West Germany, purchasing about 21 percent of the country's export wool. Britain bought almost 20 percent, France 16 percent, Italy 13 and Japan nine percent.

It said it expects world prices to increase by be-

tween five and 10 percent next season, which opens on August 28. It said farmers expect production not to rise by more than one percent. —
Reuter.

CSO; 3400/745

INFLATION HITS NEW HIGH

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 23 Jul 85 p 1

[Article by Daan de Kock]

[Text]

SOUTH Africa's inflation rate, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), reached a new high for 1985 when it jumped to 16,44 percent in June.

The rate of increase, however, has started to level off which could be an indication that the long-awaited turning point has been reached.

Figures released by the Central Statistics Office

in Pretoria yesterday showed that the inflation rate on a year-on-year basis increased from 16,11 in May and 11,66 percent in June last year, to 16,44 percent.

The all items index (base 1980-100) rose 1,27 percent to 191,9 in June after a 1,12 percent increase to 189,5 in May.

The increase in June came as no surprise. Some economists forecast a turning point of around 17 percent in the inflation

rate. It now seems unlikely that it will reach this figure.

Most economists expect the rate to start dropping now.

The following table gives South Africa's inflation rate on a year-on-year basis for the first six months of the year: January 13,9%, February 16%, March 15,11%, April 15,57%, May 16,1% and June 16,44 percent.

An analysis of the fig-

ures shows that the index for the lower income group rose 1,62 percent to 188,2 in June.

The index for the middle income group climbed 1,41 percent from 191,2 in May to 193,9 for June.

The index for the higher income group rose 1,10 percent from 189,7 in May to 191,8 last month.

The food only index in June showed an increase of 2,01 percent from 183,8 in May to 187,5 in June.

CSO: 3400/745

TAIWAN VISITOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO NAVY

Pretoria PARATUS in English Jun 85 p 63

[Text]

ON a recent tour of South Africa, with the aim to strengthen the ties between South Africa and the Republic of China and their two Navies, the Commander in Chief of the Navy of the Republic of China, Adm Liu Ho-chien, also visited Simon's Town.

The Admiral and his party were the guests of the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm A.P. Putter. They had previously visited Naval Headquarters and units in Pretoria and Durban before calling at Simon's Town.

One of the highlights of the two-day visit to Simon's Town was a "ride" in the submarine simulator at the DSTC at SAS Hugo Biermann.

At a farewell reception before his return to the Republic of China, Adm Liu Ho-chien spoke of the hospitality, the honours and the courtesies that had been extended to him and his party from the South African Government and the

SA Navy.

"As we know, both your Navy and ours have firm faith in our national principles. Both of us have a determination to protect our countries against Communist aggression. I believe that no matter what may be the changes in the world situation, the fraternity between our two Navies will never be changed and we will continue to grow in strength. We will overcome all difficulties and make our Navies even stronger," Adm Liu Ho-chien went on to say.

He thanked V Adm Putter for the opportunity to observe the SA Navy ships, facilities and installations, commenting on the fact that he considered the SA Navy to be among the finest in the world. He particularly noted the high morale of and excellent training facilities employed by the South African Navy.

CSO: 3400/666

LE GRANGE ANNOUNCES NEW POLICE BRANCH

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 20 Jul 85 p 10

[Text]

A NEW branch of the SA Police, to handle all scientific functions, is being created in a move to rationalise the structure of the SAP.

Announcing this yesterday the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, said he had approved the establishment of a scientific service component in the South African Police to help "cope with the complexity of combating and investigating crime."

The statement, issued in Pretoria, said ongoing scientific and technologi-

cal development made it necessary for people with professional qualifications to be employed.

The new component will be known as the "Criminalistics Branch of the South African Police," Mr Le Grange said.

The branch will "inter alia consist of . . . the Criminal Bureau, the forensic scientific laboratory, computer, communication, scientific research services and possibly the

police dog school, as well as members with professional qualifications, eg pharmacists, engineers etc."

The new component "will function under the command of an officer with the rank of lieutenant general."

Maj-Gen L P Neething, present chief of the forensic scientific laboratory, has been appointed chief of the Criminalistics Branch and promoted to lieutenant-general with effect from the beginning of last month.

Gen Neething, BSC, MSC, PhD and DSC, "is also a member of the South African Academy for Science and Art and various scientific organisations."

The statement also announced the appointment of Maj-Gen J A N Grobelaar, acting chief of the

detective branch, as chief of the branch and his promotion to lt-gen, retrospective to July 1.

Brig I J M van Niekerk, chief of the inspectorate of police, and Brig A J Wandrag, commander of the counter insurgency unit have been promoted to the rank of maj-gen, retrospective to April 1.

Mr Le Grange also announced that several officers had been promoted to the rank of brigadier (deputy commissioner).

They are: Brig H W Kotze, Western Province; Brig I V D Vyver, head office; Brig J J Viktor, Soweto; Brig E E Oosthuizen, Soweto; Brig A B Conradie, SAP dog school; Brig H C Muller, Security Branch, Soweto; Brig J A du Preez, Western Transvaal; Brig J V van der Merwe, assistant chief, Security Branch, head office; and Brig J C Broodryk Security Branch, head office. — Sapa.

CSO; 3400/738

BRIEFS

BLACK, COLORED EMPLOYMENT SITUATION--Job reservation was almost non-existent for the 45 000 Black and Coloured people employed in Paarl and Wellington, Cape, according to a Human Sciences Research Council survey. Coloured people, in particular, were also increasingly found in posts previously filled by Whites. The survey, which centered on the demand for and supply of Black and Coloured labour and how their wages compared with those in surrounding areas, was carried out at the request of the two municipalities. The council found that about 66 per cent of all job opportunities in both towns were provided by the commercial and manufacturing sectors. Most Coloured and Black people were found in production and labourer occupations, although Coloured people were being increasingly employed in the clerical and administrative field or as artisans and production supervisors. Employers generally viewed their Coloured and Black workers in a positive light and mainly regarded them as honest, responsible, loyal, hard-working and polite. No great shortage of labour was reported and the personnel turnover was also particularly low. The survey found that wages in Paarl and Wellington compared favourably with those of similar groups in the Peninsula. [Text] [Pretoria SOUTH AFRICAN DIGEST in English 5 Jul 85 p 589]

CSO: 3400/750

BRIEFS

EEC AID, INVESTMENT--Dar es Salaam--An agreement which would enable Tanzania to secure a grant of more than 2 billion shillings from the EEC and the European Investment Bank under the Lome Convention was signed today. The agreement was signed in Dar es Salaam today by the director general of the EEC, (K. Buter), the representative of that bank, Mr (Martin Cohen), the principal secretary in the Ministry of Finance Ndugu Gilman Rutihinda. According to the agreement nearly 2 billion is aid and 214 million will be provided as investment by the EEC of special capital. Aid given by the community will be used to improve agriculture and food production. [Text] [Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1900 GMT 25 Jul 85 LD]

CSO: 3400/755

COLOREDS SAY THEY ABSTAINED FROM VOTE

Harare THE HERALD in English 15 Jul 85 p 1

[Text]

THE Coloured community in Hatfield is up in arms about allegations that it supported the Conservative Alliance Zimbabwe during the recent elections, pointing out that most of them did not vote because they rejected the idea of being on a separate voters' role.

This had emerged from several house meetings in the constituency since the elections and throws doubts on claims by the independent candidate for Hatfield, Mr Herbert Thompson, that a large slice of Coloured votes went to Mr Dennis Johnson of the CAZ.

It has been pointed out at the meetings that the constituency is a large one, covering about 10 suburbs which have a large white population. If most Coloureds did not vote, CAZ won the election on a largely white vote.

The CAZ candidate won with 729 votes against the 441 for Mr Dick Cartwright of the Independent Zimbabwe Group and 339 for the Independent candidate, Mr Herbert Thompson.

One resident in the constituency, Mr David Kilpin, has accused Mr Thompson of splitting the

electorate as "he should have known that he would not win as most voters did not know what he stood for".

The votes that the independent candidate had taken would have gone to the IZG to give the group an advantage over the CAZ. In other words, "It is Mr Thompson who supported the CAZ and not the Coloured community".

He pointed out that Coloureds believed that the ruling party would look after the interests of all the people in Zimbabwe, regardless of race; and rejected the fact that they had been included on the white voters roll.

Another leading member of the Coloured community in Hatfield, who refused to be named, said "very few of the so-called Coloureds are on the voters' register as they refused to participate in the racist Lancaster House constitution which classifies them as whites".

The outrage in the constituency was aroused soon after the election for the 20 white members of parliament when Mr Thompson, who does not live in the constituency and has spent several years in Zambia, accused Coloured voters of supporting CAZ.

INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES QUIZZED ON BLACK ADVANCEMENT

Harare THE HERALD in English 13 Jul 85 p 5

[Text]

VICTORIA FALLS.

PRIVATE sector representatives were yesterday once again quizzed about the apparent lack of progress in the advancement of black Zimbabweans to meaningful senior management positions.

In a session during the last day of the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries annual congress here, Government ministers and senior officials took their turn to ask questions, with the Minister of State (Industry and Technology), Cde Kumbirai Kangai, urging delegates to be totally frank and blunt.

This advice had been prompted by the CZI's rather ambivalent reply to a question about its attitude to the Government's socialist policies, in which CZI's incoming deputy president Mr David Long implied that there was no fundamental conflict between the Government and private sector beliefs as long as there was flexibility and co-operation.

Cde Kangai noted that the post-independence trend of appointing blacks to senior management positions appeared to have slowed down, and where the appointments were made, they were limited to personnel management and public relations fields.

Another question from the Ministry of Labour, Manpower Planning and Social Services said

that even in these appointments, the powers of those appointed were limited compared to those of their white counterparts.

The outgoing president of CZI, Mr Alan Paterson, said that while no statistics were available, he believed that progress had been made in the advancement of black staff and many companies were giving a great deal of attention to human resources development.

But he pointed out that blacks could have been slotted into certain types of appointments because, although they were highly trained and often had several degrees, they did not necessarily have the practical experience needed for more specialised posts in industry.

One delegate, Dr Chris Mushonga, was less complacent and said that the practice of appointing black personnel managers merely to ease liaison with the Government on staff matters must stop.

He believed that the CZI should conduct a survey of all its members to find out what was being done about the situation.

Cde Kangai explained that his question had been prompted by the fact that several black middle management employees of multinationals had told his ministry that they were concerned about the slow pace of their advancement.

Mr Paterson said that frustration about promotion was common among both blacks and whites, but said the issue would be examined by the CZI.

Another issue that will probably be closely considered by the CZI over the next year will be staff housing.

Continuing the debate on housing started on Thursday, a former CZI president Mr Frank Mills answered a question from the Ministry of Construction and National Housing about the private sector's contribution to solving the national housing backlog.

He outlined the loan and guarantee schemes adopted by various companies and said he was pleased to hear that the Government was prepared to make land available to companies near factories for workers' accommodation.

But efforts to provide workers' housing had been hampered by the depressed state of the economy.

A representative of the Ministry of Construction and National Housing was not satisfied with the answer stressing that he would have preferred more concrete examples of what had been done by the private sector so far and a delegate suggested that this was another area where a study was necessary.

INCREASING SUCCESS OF BLACKS IN AIR FORCE

Harare THE HERALD in English 11 Jul 85 p 1

[Text]

TREMENDOUS progress has been made in the training of black pilots and technicians and the various flying squadrons of the Air Force of Zimbabwe are now almost self-sufficient.

Most of the squadrons now boast several black aircraft commanders. These include two squadron commanders.

Speaking at a farewell reception for 14 instructors at a Harare hotel on Tuesday night, Wing Commander Kifait Awan, who is one of the officers and men who have just completed their tour of duty with the air force on secondment from Pakistan, said the

training had been very successful.

Wing Commander Awan, originally based at Thornhill, has recently been officer commanding flying at New Sarum air base in Harare, home of 3 Squadron which he said now boasts 25 black transport pilots.

The success of 8 Squadron is reflected elsewhere, particularly at the flying school where a number of blacks recently qualified as flight instructors to take over instruction duties.

He also said a number of blacks had taken over command in helicopter flying. Some had been trained outside the coun-

try and had recently undergone conversion courses to enable them to fly Air Force of Zimbabwe helicopters.

Much was still to be done to provide all the squadrons with adequate pilots and technicians, he said. However, the prospects were very good.

Wing Commander Awan attributed much of the success to the Commander of the Air Force, Air Marshal Azim Daudpota, and the Chief of Staff, Air Vice-Marshal Josiah Tungamirai, whom he said had been "a constant source of inspiration and encouragement in the moments of trial and difficulty".

CSO; 3400/740

INDIA PLANS TO BUILD RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK

Harare THE HERALD in English 11 Jul 85 BUSINESS HERALD Supplement p 1

[Article by David Masunda]

[Text]

INDIA's State Trading Corporation has submitted a \$15 million plan to use the facilities of three of Zimbabwe's largest rolling stock manufacturers to make railway wagons for Africa and other regions.

The plan would encompass the use of manufacturing facilities at Morewear, Zeco and F. Issels and Son to make railway wagons and possibly coaches from local and Indian raw materials, STC's manager in Harare, Mr Bhisham Sedo Sabnani, said this week.

An Indian delegation was in the country recently and "was extremely pleased" when it found that the three companies together had all what was required to start such a project in Zimbabwe.

"Already, remarkable progress has been made . . . talks are now on for meeting the immediate requirements of Zambia and Uganda, among others," said Mr Sabnani.

The plan would also involve smaller local companies who would come in as sub-contractors or sub-assemblers for some of the items. Items being presently imported by the three manufacturers would come from India.

There was a possibility

of extending manufacture to include railway passenger coaches and special railway cars for the mining industry.

"If there is sufficient demand in this part of the region for passenger coaches we will use our expertise to manufacture them in Zimbabwe," he said.

Said Mr Sabnani: "All the three companies have shown tremendous interest."

Such a move would amalgamate production of three of Africa's largest rolling stock manufacturers and better the local industry's chances when tendering for international contracts.

Local companies have lost contracts in the region in the fiercely-con-

tested rolling stock market because their financial packages did not compare well to those of well-established European manufacturers.

Bulawayo-based Zeco failed in its bid to supply Botswana with locomotives earlier this year because a Canadian competitor made a better financial package that included a 25 percent soft loan and a grant to rehabilitate a section of rail track in Botswana. Sources in Harare said Zeco's locomotives cost just as little as the Canadian GEC who won the contract.

"Under this arrangement, we won't be competitors but India would use the three as sub-contractors or co-bidders," said Mr Sabnani.

He said negotiations were also underway for the local assembly of Indian-type small tractors by a local company for anticipated orders from the region. Such small tractors (45 hp) could be used by small-scale farmers, co-operatives

and even large commercial farmers.

Mr Sabnani said STC had also used \$2.25 million of the balance of a line of credit India gave to Zimbabwe in 1982 to bring in tractors, tractor parts, diesel engines, compressors for the mining industry, water system parts and stationary manufacturing machinery.

An India/Zimbabwe barter deal had made available more than \$1.35 million which would be used to bring into Zimbabwe tractors and sewing machines and parts. Another barter deal was expected this month and would be of machinery for the mining industry.

STC's Projects and Equipment Corporation had been contracted to co-ordinate the supply of the machinery which would include dumper trucks, excavators bulldozers, scrapers and drilling equipment.

Mr Sabnani said a much bigger barter deal was expected to be finalised this year.

ITALIAN CONSTRUCTION COOPERATIVE TO BUILD MAZWIKADEI

Harare THE HERALD in English 18 Jul 85 BUSINESS HERALD supplement p 1

[Article by David Masunda]

[Text] One of Italy's largest construction co-operatives--Co-operativa Muratorio and Cementisti--will start building the \$28 million Mazwikadei Dam in Banket in October.

The development co-operation attache at the Italian Embassy in Harare, Dr Angelo Baiocchi, said the dam--to be larger than Lake McIlwaine--should be completed by the end of 1987.

"They are finalising the papers now and construction itself is going to start maybe in October," said Dr Baiocchi. First surveys were already underway and equipment was expected in the country in about two months.

Local blasting specialists KW Blasting (Pvt) Ltd are the main subcontractor. Managing director Mr Robert Brundle said his company had already started working on the sub-contract which was worth about \$3 million.

"Our part of the job, which is putting in tunnels, is the first thing that has to be done so we started rock excavations last Thursday," he said.

Mazwikadei is to be financed by a \$28 million loan from the government of Italy. The soft loan, and all other Italian loans, has a 1,5 yearly interest rate, is repayable over 10 years and includes a 10-year grace period.

The \$28 million is part of a \$79 million/ three-year aid programme to Zimbabwe and Italy signed last November.

About \$23 million of that had already been spent on projects such as Hwange Stage Two, Musikavanhu irrigation scheme, the Kariba south shore and rural development in Manicaland, he said.

Another loan worth more than \$12 million (about US\$9,5 million) would go to the Ministry of Information, Posts and Telecommunications to buy telecommunications equipment, said Dr Baiocchi.

Italy has also given Zimbabwe a loan of more than \$14 million (US\$10 million) for its commodity import programme.

Dr Baiocchi said one his country's biggest grants to Zimbabwe (worth about \$5 million) was for the construction and upgrading of Chinhoyi Hospital.

This programme included the staffing of the hospital and parts of Mashonaland West with 20 Italian doctors and medical specialists.

Besides bilateral programmes he said, there were also multilateral ones which came to Zimbabwe through international organisations.

One of them was \$2 million study on the role of women in rural areas, financed through the United Nations Development Programme.

Another, through the Food and Agricultural Organisation, brought in 95 tractors--worth about \$2,5 million--to the CMED. Spare parts and additional tractors would cost about \$1,5 million, he said.

CSO: 3400/748

ZIMBABWE

NEIGHBOR NATIONS TRAIN FOR BANKING IN HARARE

Harare THE HERALD in English 18 Jul 85 BUSINESS HERALD supplement p 1

[Text] Standard Chartered banks in neighbouring countries have already started using Harare as a regional training centre, the banking group's chief executive in Zimbabwe, Mr David Moir, said this week.

A managerial course for bank employees which ends this week had nine locals and two Batswana while another one to begin on August 19 had two Zambians already enrolled.

There is a possibility that more Zambians and Batswana would enrol for the course. Other Standard Chartered banks in Lesotho and Swaziland will also participate in the training programmes.

Last week Standard Chartered's group managing director, Mr Michael McWilliam, said a two-day conference of the group's 13 African banks and its London head office, had discussed the setting up of regional training centres and an interchange of personnel within Africa.

Mr Moir said the local bank would also help those in the neighbouring countries with new software.

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MHONDORO DISTRICT TO GET NEW PLACE NAMES

Harare THE HERALD in English 18 Jul 85 p 4

[Text] Mhondoro District Council has proposed new names for several places in the district including schools, dams and villages.

New names with historical background of local relevance have been suggested for six business centres, five dams, three weirs, two villages, two rivers and a cattle dip tank.

At a recent council meeting held to discuss changes to names of some places which have colonial connotations, suggestions to rename Mubayira growth point Chinengundu after a hero of the first chimurenga ran into heated debate.

Names were also put forward for nine missionary schools named in honour of saints. The schools, administered by the district council, have to be renamed with names depicting local events of importance. One such school, St. Peter's, was renamed Chifamba after a local hero who died at the nearby Chirozva Hills during the first chimurenga.

It was also proposed that Nicholas village be renamed Moeketsi after a settler Batswana national, Tlass Cornelius Moeketsi, whose name was mispronounced as Lassy Nicholas by the locals.

Fort Martin River would be renamed Kaguvi after a big pool on the river where miracles are believed to happen.

The proposed names are subject to approval by the Cabinet committee on place names.

CSO: 3400/747

MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES WARNS OF SOIL DEPLETION

Bulawayo THE CHRONICLE in English 18 Jul 85 p 1

[Text] Harare--Zimbabwe has only 50 years of good farming left unless something drastic is done to curb the current soil depletion rate, the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Cde Victoria Chitepo, warned here yesterday.

The average soil loss in communal lands was 50 tonnes per hectare per year and even on the commercial farms the picture was not good. In the latter sector some 12 percent of the arable land had 10 years ago been damaged beyond repair.

Cde Chitepo said this in a speech read on her behalf at the annual general meeting of the Conservation Trust of Zimbabwe by the permanent secretary in her Ministry, Cde Maurice Tagwireyi.

"It is estimated that if soil depletion rates continue at this level, Zimbabwe has only 50 years of good farming," she warned.

On siltation, Cde Chitepo said Zimbabweans should be prepared for "a shock" to hear what the natural picture looked like.

A survey conducted recently on 132 dams in Masvingo revealed that 50 percent of them would be useless soon, while 12 percent of the dams were dead, she said.

National forests were dying at an estimated rate of 75 000 hectares of land every year, the most serious cause being deforestation for crop cultivation.

"Assuming that the woodland area in the communal areas added up to five million hectares, it would mean that the country has 66 years left before the last forest is cleared," she said.

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ZIMBABWE

FOREST INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTER TO BE FUNDED WITH ITALY

Harare THE HERALD in English 18 Jul 85 BUSINESS HERALD supplement p 1

[Article by Andrew Rusinga]

[Text] Zimbabwe and Italy will jointly fund the construction of a \$14 million forest industries training centre in Mutare to train technical staff for the local and SADCC timber industries.

Negotiations are well advanced and an agreement between the two governments is expected to be signed soon. The cost covers capital and operating costs for the first six years of operation.

The projects co-ordinator for Zimbabwe's Forestry Commission, Mr John Wiltshire, said this week the centre would be built near the Zimbabwe College of Forestry in the city.

"Once the agreement is signed construction will commence within three to six months and we hope to complete the work in 18 months to two years."

When the centre is built the existing college would provide with tree growing and utilisation courses, said Mr Wiltshire.

At the 4th annual meeting of the Timber Council of Zimbabwe in Harare this week, outgoing president Mr Boyman Mancama said the centre would fill a long-felt need for the training of technicians in all stages of timber processing.

Mr Mancama said in his annual report trading conditions continue to be depressed in Zimbabwe and neighbouring states.

He gave examples: Sales of wooden tobacco cases during the past five years have been declining, from 437 789 cases sold in 1980 to 92 977 cases sold last year. The decline is also evident in sales of bottle cases; 545 100 were sold in 1981 and only 255 000 last year.

The loss of the market share in the tobacco industry was partly related to competition from cardboard boxes and cost increases within the timber industry's operations.

Noting that foreign currency had been made available to cardboard manufacturers to import raw materials, Mr Mancama said:

"While competition is indeed healthy for any business enterprise, the nature of the competition should, of necessity, be in the interest of the country. It should not be to the detriment of the economic utilisation of a country's resources."

Various cost increases during the year including transport, labour, power and the high price of borrowing money had priced timber out of most markets.

There was a need to take an objective look at the timber industry to provide solutions to some of the problems affecting its viability.

Mr Mancama said there was tremendous potential for exports to the SADCC and PTA states. But these countries were facing serious foreign currency problems.

South Africa, which provided a lucrative market, was also experiencing economic problems. The furniture retail trade there retrenched 10 700 people between August last year and February this year. Another 2 000 were laid off by manufacturers.

The proposed chemical pulp and paper mill would give the timber industry a "new lease on life". The final report from Canadian consultants drawing up a feasibility report is due in August, said Mr Mancama.

The executive committee for the coming year is: Mr K. A. Radford, president, Mr D. E. Middlemost, vice-president, Mr P. V. Mead, Mr D. Martin, Mr I. F. Milne and Mr B. V. Mancama.

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ECOLOGIST SAYS LAND WASTED ON CATTLE

Harare THE HERALD in English 19 Jul 85 BUSINESS HERALD Supplement p 9

[Text] The chief ecologist of Zimbabwe's National Parks Development has cast doubt on the principles along which the country's agriculture is run and sees another Ethiopian famine looming here.

Good land is being squandered on cattle, he says and Zimbabwe will have to come up with better systems of land use urgently as the country's population will double within 25 years, the continent's food production is dropping and deserts are expanding.

Dr David Cumming of the Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management said vast amounts of money were being pumped into the research and development of exotic crops and livestock rather than into discovering how best to make use of indigenous vegetation and game.

His call for urgent action in an address at the annual meeting of the National Conservation Trust of Zimbabwe this week adds weight to an appeal for drastic measures made at the same meeting by the Minister of National Resources and Touris, Cde Victoria Chitepo.

The minister presented the spectre of a Zimbabwe left without arable land within 50 years because of the present rate of soil depletion.

Conservationists see the Prime Minister's commitment to implementing a national conservation strategy, due for completion before the end of the year, as an indication that they are being lent a more sympathetic government ear.

Therefore, Dr Cumming's statement, that he does not regard as worthwhile the squandering of natural resources for the sake of beef exports to Europe, is likely to send ripples through the local cattle industry whose markets are saturated and which is trying desperately to sell to the European Economic Community.

He said his department was coming up with revolutionary concepts in areas such as game and communal farming, but its researchers had only a 10th of the funds they needed for the productive development of their ideas.

The reasons why so little interest had been channelled into Africa's natural resources had to do with the colonial experience, he said. Settlers brought exotic plants and animals they knew how to handle, regarded wildlife as game for sport and viewing and today there was little knowledge on the economic use of wild animals and forests.

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END